

MEMOIRS

OF

Elizabeth Farnesio,

THE PRESENT

Queen Dowager of *SPAIN*.

CONTAINING

Her Intrigues and Ambitious Views, from the Year 1714, in which she was married to *PHILIP V.* King of *Spain*, till the Year 1746, in which that Monarch died.

TOGETHER

With the Alarms occasioned in several Courts of *Europe*, and the Civil Wars attempted to be kindled by her Means, in *England* and *France*; With her Famous Scheme for carrying the Duke of *Orleans* Prisoner from *Versailles* to *Segovia*, and many other Important Passages not known in the Histories of those Times.

Translated from a Spanish MANUSCRIPT.

L O N D O N :

Printed by T. GARDNER, and Sold at his Printing-Office, at *Cowley's Head*, opposite *St. Clement's Church*, in the Strand. 1746.

Entered in the Hall-Book.

Spain Vol. 2.

MEMOIRS

OF

Elizabeth Farnese

THE PRESENT

Queen Dowager of SPAIN

CONTAINING

Her Instructions and Ambitious Views from the
Year 1701, in which she was married to
PHILIP V. King of Spain, till the
Year 1746, in which that Monarch died.

TOGETHER

With the Affairs occurring in several Courts of
Europe, and the Characters of the several
Princes and Princes, and Princes,
kindred by her Majesty, and Princes,
With her famous Scheme for carrying the Duke
of Savoy Prisoner from Versailles to Geneva,
and many other important Passages not known
in the Histories of those Times.



Translated from a Spanish Manuscript.

L O N D O N :

Printed by T. Caddell, and sold at his Printing-
Office, in Strand, opposite St. Dunstons Church.
In the Year 1749.
Printed in the Strand.



MEMOIRS

O F

Elizabeth Farnesio, &c.



P HILIP V. late King of *Spain*, and Grandson to *Lewis XIV.* of *France*, was twelve Years and a half married to *Mary Louisa Gabriela*, Daughter of *Victor-Amadeus*, Duke of *Savoy*, and afterwards King of *Sardinia*. The Life of this Princess was a continued Scene of Troubles and Cares, on account of the Wars kindled in *Spain*; whose Crown was warmly disputed by the House of *Austria* and her Allies, against that of *Bourbon*, till the late Emperor *Charles VI.* was called to the Imperial Throne: The Queen, however, concealed her Chagrin from the Eyes of the Public,
B with

with a Greatness of Soul equal to her Birth : But the tender Constitution of her Body suffered all the while ; which greatly impaired her Health, and threw her into a languishing Disorder, of which she died on the 14th of *February*, N. S. 1715, in the twenty-sixth Year of her Age, leaving Issue Don *Lewis**, Don *Vendome*, and Don *Ferdinand*.

France and *Spain* were preparing to reduce the *Catalans* with their joint Forces, when this young Queen died. The Project was soon effected by the Valour and Conduct of the Duke of *Berwick*, which alleviated, in some measure, the deep Sorrow the rest of the *Spanish* Nation was plunged into for the
Loss

* This Don *Lewis*, on the Abdication of King *Philip* his Father, in the Year 1724, succeeded to the *Spanish* Monarchy, which he did not possess long ; for in the following Year he was carried off, after a few Days Illness : The true Cause of which was never discovered, though there were not wanting some who imputed his sudden Death to the ambitious Views of a Step-Mother, who, by putting this young and promising Prince out of the way, before he could have any Issue by his Queen, the Princess of *Montpensier*, and Daughter to the late Duke of *Orleans*, Regent of *France*, to whom he was married in *March* 1723, left but one Life more between Don *Carlos*, her eldest Son, now King of *Naples* and *Sicily*, and the Crown of *Spain* ; that was Don *Ferdinand*, *Vendome* being dead some Years before.

Loss of so pious a Princess, which they thought then could not easily be repaired. But as this Conquest had restored Peace to *Spain*, and given Respite to the King from the Hurry and Confusion of War and Arms, the Success of which is always doubtful, his Ministers and Courtiers were now at leisure to form new Projects, more pleasing and agreeable to his Majesty, than what the Horrors of War could afford.

Abbé Alberoni, a cunning artful *Italian* Priest, who had served the Duke of *Vendome* as Chaplain, during his Campaigns in *Italy*, followed that General into *France* and *Spain*, and through the Credit he had with *Vendome* insinuated himself into the Esteem of those who were *Philip* the fifth's Favourites. The King being of a healthy Constitution, made it very probable that he would not remain long a Widower. *Alberoni* bore an implacable Antipathy to the House of *Austria*, which recommended him to the *Spaniards*; and now he studies to distress that House, and to aggrandize the Duke of *Parma*, whose Subject he was, and born of mean Parents at *Placentia*. He concluded, that an Alliance between King *Philip*, and the Family of *Farnesio*, would furnish his Catholic Majesty with an Opportunity of reviving and

improving those Rights which the Peace of *Utrecht* had stripped him of.

The Situation of the *Spanish* Monarch's Affairs, at this Juncture, were such, as that he could not have lost Sight of the *French* Succession, he being the first Prince of the Blood, then living, of the House of *Bourbon*, and but one sickly Minor that prevented his ascending the *Gallic* Throne, though he had renounced it in the most solemn Manner. On the other hand, it would be prudent and just in his Ministers and Counsellors to procure a Match between *Philip* and the eldest of the Arch-Dutcheffes, Daughters of the Emperor *Leopold*; for such a Marriage would confirm their Master in the peaceable Possession of his Dominions. But this was neglected; and Cardinal *del Giudici*, who was then Prime Minister, and the Princess of *Ursinos*, both whom having engrossed the King's Confidence, and governed him by turns, thought of nothing else but to secure themselves in their high Stations, and unrivalled; a Thing not to be hoped for from a new Queen and her Train of Favourites, if the King should marry, as they found afterwards by Experience.

The

The Princess of *Ursinos* was of an antient *Roman* Family, and Aunt to the present Duke of *Gravina* and *Ursinos*, of the Kingdom of *Naples*. She came to *Spain* along with the Princess *Mary Louisa Gabriela*, the late Queen of *Spain*, and was her chief Favourite. Upon the Queen's Death, *Philip* declared her Governess of the Princes his Sons, which gave her an Opportunity of seeing his Majesty every Day. She used all her Endeavours to mitigate his Sorrows with great Address, which was natural to her. This gave Birth to a Report, that she flattered herself with nothing less than the Throne; and artfully studied to accommodate herself wholly to the King's Temper and Humour, the better to gain her Point.

As Secrecy contributes surprizingly towards bringing all political Schemes to Maturity and Perfection, *Alberoni* having reflected on his Scheme, and all it's Consequences, he communicated it only to the Duke of *Parma*, his Lord and Master; who, as all the World has seen, readily gave into it. The Princess of *Parma* was a young Lady of an extraordinary Judgment and Understanding, full of Vivacity, had a perfect Knowledge of the Affairs of *Europe*, and possessed many other distinguishing Qualities, in an eminent Degree.

The Duke her Uncle, who then reigned in *Parma* and *Placentia*, foreseeing the Obstacles that might be laid by other Powers to this Match, and the Troubles which have since happened in *Europe* on the Account thereof, resolved to keep this Grand Affair in *petto*, till every thing should be ripe for a Declaration of such a Marriage, by the King of *Spain*, if he should approve of the Scheme. However, he sent Credentials to *Alberoni*, whom he appointed his Minister at the *Spanish* Court, with Instructions to bring his Plan to Perfection with all Diligence.

Pope *Paul* III. whilst Marquis of *Parma* and *Placentia*, abdicated his States in favour of his next Heir, took Holy Orders, and was at last raised to the Tripple Crown. The *Roman* Pontiffs have, ever since, pretended to have a Paternal Love and Regard for the *Farnesio* Family. It was not therefore to be doubted but *Clement* XI. who at this Time filled *St. Peter's* Chair, would approve of a Match between that Family and a crowned Head, whose Interest had ever been dear to him: And it was no less to be questioned that he would omit nothing for the Success of the projected Marriage, because it must have resulted great Lustre on the Holy See, to place the Daughter of one of her Vassals upon

upon a Throne; so that every thing foretold the Pope's Approbation and Concurrence, as soon as the Matter should be laid before him in Form, which, however, had not then been done.

Before any Overtures were made at *Madrid* relating to this Match, the Holy Father was privately consulted about it, and answered all the Hopes that were conceived of him. *Clement* the XIth recommended it to the Approbation of the *French* King, in a Letter written with his own Hand, and sent Orders to his Nuncio at *Madrid*, to give *Alberoni* all manner of Assistance in an Affair, which his Holiness had greatly at Heart, and would prove of infinite Advantage to the See of *Rome*.

There never was a Pope, since *Clement* the VIIth, who was in more difficult Circumstances than *Clement* XI. found himself in at this Juncture; for being unalterably attached to the Interest of the House of *Bourbon*, which always clashed with that of *Austria*, he constantly opposed the Views of the latter. It was very easy for him to believe, that a Match with the Presumptive Heiress of *Parma* and *Placentia*, which would put the Catholic King in Possession of certain

Rights and Claims, and would give *Philip V.* footing again in *Italy*, would also enable that Prince to serve the Turns of the *Roman Pontiffs*, who only wanted an Opportunity to be revenged for the Invasion of *Commachio*; the Passage of the *German Troops* through the States of the Church; but more particularly for the following *Manifesto*, which is but an Answer to a Bull published by *Clement's* Orders, the Purport of which may easily be collected from this Piece.

“ *Joseph*, by Divine Clemency, elected
 “ Emperor of the *Romans*, always august,
 “ &c. &c. &c. It is well known to all
 “ Men, and demonstrable from the Course
 “ of Affairs in a few Years past, with what
 “ extraordinary Care, Labour, and Expence,
 “ the Enemy were expelled *Italy*; and the
 “ Liberty of that Country, which was op-
 “ pressed by *French* Power, happily restored
 “ by the victorious Arms of Us and Our
 “ Allies; that we were fully persuaded there
 “ could not be one Prince or State in all
 “ *Italy* who could suppress his Joy for it,
 “ and be averse to make deserved Returns of
 “ Affection and Gratitude to Us.

“ But We are now constrained to take
 “ notice, not without being deeply affected
 “ with

" with Grief, that the Ministers of the Court
 " of *Rome* have been so far misled, either by
 " Disaffection to Us, or by Views of some
 " private Advantages to themselves, 'as to
 " have taken upon them, to the Astonish-
 " ment of all the World, and to the Scandal
 " of Christendom, to exercise Spiritual Au-
 " thority in Secular Affairs, and to print a
 " Declaration in Support thereof.

" Upon mature Consideration of the said
 " Declaration, and of all and singular the
 " Clauses therein contained, We cannot but
 " be extremely concerned to find, that,
 " among other Things, the Court of *Rome*
 " should, by arrogating to themselves a
 " Sovereignty, as of Right belonging to
 " them, pretend to abolish the most antient
 " Rights of Us and the *Roman* Empire in
 " *Italy*, together with the Rights thence
 " accruing to the Dutchy of *Milan*, over
 " *Parma* and *Placentia*; when, from the
 " current Tenor of History, and from the
 " Grants of the Investitures given by our
 " Predecessors, the *Roman* Emperors, as
 " well as from other public Instruments,
 " it is most apparent, that the direct, su-
 " preme and sovereign Dominion over the
 " said *Parma* and *Placentia*, rightfully be-
 " longs to no other than to Us, and the
 " Sacred

“ Sacred *Roman Empire* ; and that the law-
 “ ful Possessors of the Dutchy of *Milan* are
 “ invested therewith,

“ It is not certain, neither can it be made
 “ appear, that this direct and supreme Do-
 “ minion and reserved Sovereignty, was ever
 “ renounced by any Emperor ; or that with-
 “ out the exprefs Consent of the Emperor
 “ and Empire, it could be renounced, trans-
 “ ferred, or alienated by the Dukes of *Mi-*
 “ *lan*, much less be validly assumed by the
 “ Court of *Rome* ; or be legally acknow-
 “ ledged by the Dukes of *Parma* to be in
 “ that Court.

“ Many Historians testify this, and, at
 “ the same time, relate particularly and at
 “ large, what has been constantly done in
 “ this Matter, for asserting and maintaining
 “ the Imperial Rights. Nor need those
 “ who are well informed of public Affairs
 “ be told, how strenuously our Predecessors,
 “ particularly *Charles V.* of glorious Me-
 “ mory, preserved and asserted his own and
 “ the Empire's Rights, not only in the
 “ Course of his Life, but in the Preamble to
 “ his last Will and Testament. And be-
 “ sides, it is sufficiently known, that the
 “ Imperial Rights are incorporated with
 “ those

“ those of the Empire, that they can by no
 “ Means be divided from it, without the
 “ Consent of all its Members; much less be
 “ wrested and separated from it by Ponti-
 “ fical Bulls, against their Consent, tho’ big
 “ with never so great Menaces of Fulmina-
 “ tion.

“ The Attempts therefore of the Popes, to
 “ assume to themselves a Power of Judging
 “ in their own Cause, and by vertue of
 “ such kind of Bulls, to arrogate to them-
 “ selves the Rights of a third Person, were
 “ vain, and hardly deserved to be answered,
 “ otherwise than by Contempt.

“ It cannot well be imagined what the Court
 “ of *Rome* could mean, when they affirmed, in
 “ the aforesaid Declaration, that our Troops
 “ had invaded the Lands of the Church;
 “ when they knew, or at least ought to have
 “ known, that they were Fiefs belonging
 “ to Us and the Empire, on which those
 “ Troops were quartered; and that the Law
 “ of Nature and Nations does so far allow
 “ them necessary Subsistence, that even in
 “ a Neutral Territory, they might justly de-
 “ mand and take Provisions, when, for that
 “ Subsistence, those who furnish it are de-
 “ fended

“ fended and preserved from greater hostile
 “ Damage and Danger.

“ No Man can be ignorant, that those
 “ Circumstances happened in this Case ; and
 “ that according to the Canons, Laws, and
 “ Reasons of State, the Clergy themselves
 “ are obliged for maintaining of Peace and
 “ Liberty, to share the common Burthens ;
 “ especially in that Province, where this an-
 “ tient Custom of contributing in common,
 “ to Military Expences, has been always ob-
 “ served ; and where the Clergy of *Parma*
 “ have such large Possessions, that more than
 “ a fourth Part of the whole Dutchy is in
 “ their Hands. It ill became the Clergy,
 “ therefore, who abounded in Affluence,
 “ while the rest of the People were indigent,
 “ to shew themselves so tenacious of their
 “ Money ; to refuse, tho’ earnestly solicited
 “ by our Imperial Commissary, to part with
 “ a Penny in Concurrence with the Laity,
 “ and to persist refractorily and obstinately
 “ in their Resolution, notwithstanding our
 “ said Commissary gave an illustrious Proof
 “ of Reverence to the Holy See, by in-
 “ serting in the Agreement he concluded,
 “ That the Pope should have the Honour
 “ of giving his Consent to the Sums sti-
 “ pulated

“ pulated for the common Neceffity and
 “ Benefit.

“ We fee Examples of the Court of
 “ *Rome's* Behaviour, in the like Cafes of
 “ Taxes and Contributions laid on the Cler-
 “ gy ; and obferve them to carry them-
 “ felves in a very different Manner towards
 “ our Enemies ; though, as Disturbers of the
 “ common Liberty of *Europe*, they deferve
 “ no Favour : And yet, to them, that Court
 “ does either immediately give its Affent,
 “ tho' often againft common Juftice ; or
 “ does fo indulge and connive at their Ex-
 “ tortions, that the partial Animofity with
 “ which we are attacked, in the Sight of all
 “ the World, with the utmoft Licence, in our
 “ Own and the Empire's Rights, by Speech,
 “ Printing, and open Facts, which would,
 “ long ago, have excited us to fhew Our
 “ Refentment, had not the innate Goodnefs
 “ of the Houfe of *Austria*, and other Con-
 “ fiderations, with refpect to the Holy
 “ Church, prevented us.

“ And we would willingly continue yet
 “ further to fhew our Patience, however
 “ provoked from the Beginning of our Im-
 “ perial Reign, were any longer Forbear-
 “ ance to vindicate our own Rights, and
 “ the

“ the Rights of the Empire, excusable ; or
 “ could we, in so doing, be excusable to
 “ God and Posterity. But at present, be-
 “ ing urged to the contrary, by the Laws
 “ Divine and Human, Right, Reason, the
 “ Law of Nations, and other Principles of
 “ Justice and Piety.

“ Having all these for our Support ; hav-
 “ ing also taken the Advice of our Privy
 “ Counsellors, and of our whole Imperial
 “ *Aulic* Council ; and also consulted foreign
 “ Divines, and Men learned in the Canon and
 “ Civil Laws, in Defence of our Own and
 “ the Empire’s Rights ;

“ We declare the said Bull, or Declara-
 “ tion, void, null, and of no Effect ; and
 “ that the Excommunication therein ex-
 “ pressed, or any other of the like Nature,
 “ that is, or can be pretended, ought to be
 “ deemed invalid, because it evidently ap-
 “ pears to have been, and to be deficient of
 “ the Causes requisite ; namely, mortal Sin,
 “ Contumacy in a notorious Error, previous
 “ Citation of the Persons, &c. And be-
 “ cause the Bull aforesaid appears as evi-
 “ dently not to tend to the Defence of the
 “ Lord’s Inheritance, but to the absolute
 “ Usurpation of the Imperial Rights over
 “ the

“the Dutchies of *Parma* and *Placentia*,
 “&c. &c. &c.”

For these Reasons, it was absolutely necessary to keep this intended Marriage very secret, lest the House of *Austria* should find Means to prevent it.

But to return. This Disposition of Pope *Clement* towards the House of *Austria*, proved very serviceable to the House of *Parma* on this signal Occasion. His Holiness's Nuncio at *Madrid* was very active in the Affair. *Alberoni* was not idle; for the *French* King having constantly certain Persons at the Court of *Spain*, who were his Creatures, and sent from time to time to *Madrid*, to direct all Affairs there, according to the Views of the *Gallic* Court, and to give an Account of every Thing that passed in the *Spanish* Councils and Cabinet; *Alberoni*, by his Address, procured himself to be admitted into this political Cabal, by Means of the Duke of *Parma*, who had heartily recommended him to *Lewis XIV.* and gave him the Character of a lively, enterprizing Person, which all *Europe* found him afterwards to be: Thus our *Abbé*, who was only an Agent from the Court of *Parma*, became one of the secret Ministers of the Court of *France*, by which
 he

he was wholly employed to negotiate the Marriage of King *Philip* with *Elizabeth Farnesio*, Princess of *Parma*.

The Pope's Nuncio gave so advantageous a Character to King *Philip* of the Presumptive Heiress of *Parma*, when he first proposed the Match to him, that his Majesty believed, and not without good Reason, that the Princess would be as agreeable to him as his late Queen had been, on whom he doted, and whose Loss he still lamented. Other Considerations added to this, together with a Desire of being reinstated in *Italy*, soon determined the Royal Widower to approve of this Proposal. *Philip*, without any Loss of Time, sent Orders to Cardinal *Acquaviva*, who managed the Affairs of *Spain* at *Rome*, to notify the Conclusion of this Match to Pope *Clement*, in whose Presence the Marriage was, for Form Sake, solemnized a few Days after, in a public Consistory, in which *Acquaviva* delivered a Letter to his Holiness from the Catholic King, wherein he acquainted him with the Alliance between him and the Princess of *Parma*, his Feudatory.

This Ceremony soon alarmed the *Austrian* Ministers, who, till then, were not privy to the Match; for the Satisfaction expressed by
the

the Pope on this Occasion, opened their Eyes, both as to the Consequences and Motives of a Brief which *Clement XI.* had granted a little before to the Duke of *Parma*, whereby he impowered him to appoint the Princess his Niece, and now espoused to the King of *Spain*, the Heir of his Dominions, on Default of Male Issue, which has since happened. There was another Clause in this Brief, which gave the eldest Son of the future Queen a Right to be Duke and Sovereign of *Parma, Placentia, Busseto, Val de Taro*, besides the Claims he should form on *Tuscany*, on the Death of *Gaston de Medicis*, the late Grand Duke. It was the more natural for the Pope to give his Consent to all this, because, as the *Austrian* Power increased in *Italy*, which formerly had been the Seat of the Empire, so the Jealousies and Fears of the Court of *Rome*, and of all the *Italian* Princes and States, increased in proportion.

Clement the XIth did not stop here, but to shew his further Regard for the Catholick King and the future Queen, he appointed Cardinal *Gozzadini*, his Legate, *a Latere*, to carry the new Queen the Nuptial Benediction, and to compliment her on the Part of his Holiness. The Cardinals *Schrotten-*
C *bach*

bach and *Imperiali*, who were charged with the Emperor's Affairs at *Rome*, were no sooner apprized of what had passed with regard to the Princess of *Parma*, but they protested in Form both against sending the Legate *a Latere*, and against her forming any Pretensions, either for himself, or her Issue, on *Parma* and *Placentia*, &c.

All this, however, was not sufficient to check Pope *Clement's* Joy for having mortified the House of *Austria*. Cardinal *Acquaviva* repaired directly, after the Ceremony was over at *Rome*, to *Parma*, to demand the Princess of the reigning Duke, by Orders from King *Philip*; and the Legate *a Latere* followed him the next Day with a numerous Retinue.

While Matters were thus transacting in *Italy*, the Catholic King declared the Treaty of Marriage he had concluded, to his Court, as King *Lewis* the Fourteenth did on the same Day at *Marli*. The Politicians of both Kingdoms were highly surprized to find that an Affair of so extraordinary a Nature could be carried on, and brought to an happy Issue with so much Secresy; and concluded, that whosoever was the

the Author of it, must be a mortal Enemy to the *Austrian* Family.

The Cardinals *Acquaviva* and *Gozzadini* were no sooner arrived at *Parma*, but they notified the same to the Duke; and the Ceremonies used on such Occasions being performed with great Magnificence, the young Queen set out for *Genoa*, where *Acquaviva*, who attended her from *Parma*, presented her to the Marquis *de los Balbazzes*, a Spanish Grandee, and late Vice-Roy of *Sicily*, to conduct her to the Spanish Court. The Marquis designed to carry her Majesty to *Allicant* by Sea; but the Queen not liking that Element, would not venture upon it, but travelled by Land thro' the South of *France*, and by easy Journies at last entered the King her Spouse's Dominions, and went directly to *Pamplona* in *Navarre*, where she discharged most of her *Parmesan* Attendants.

The King and Court having received the agreeable News of her Majesty's Arrival in *Spain*, the Princess of *Ursinos* set out immediately to meet her, and travelled as far as *Xadraquex* before the Queen came up, who was not in such a Hurry to see *Ursinos*: When she came into the Queen's Presence, at the Place already mentioned, the Queen

looked upon her with great Indifference. This did not hinder the Princess of *Ursinos* from congratulating her Majesty on her Marriage with King *Philip*, and on her safe Arrival in his Dominions. The Queen, by the Advice of *Alberoni*, had concerted proper Measures to get rid of a dangerous Favourite, which, she dreaded, might one Day or other disturb that Happiness she promised herself, from the Affection of the King her Consort, with whom her only Study was to live and die in perfect Harmony, which Favourites too often mar.

Ursinos, having made an End of her Compliment, was thunder-struck when she found that the Queen would not vouchsafe to make her the least Answer. Notwithstanding which, she continued in her Majesty's Presence, till the Colonel of her Guards came to acquaint *Ursinos*, that he was ready to wait upon her to the Frontiers of *France*, where he was ordered to see her safe. In vain did the unfortunate *Ursinos* alledge the great Services she had rendered King *Philip* and his late Queen, and how faithfully she had acquitted herself of the Charge of Governess of the *Infants of Spain*, or her firm Attachment to the House of *Parma*; for she could not get one Word from the Queen.

In

In the Confusion and Anxiety which this sudden and unexpected Change of her Affairs had reduced her to, from the high Pinnacle of human Glory, she mustered up her Spirits, and told the Officer, That she would obey the Queen's Orders, but would return to Court, to make her Complaints to the Catholic King. The Colonel finding her so resolute, and bent on going back to *Madrid*, he pulled out the King's Order and read it to her. It imported, that the Princess of *Ursinos* was to be carried *luego, luego*, (that is, forthwith,) forthwith, to the Frontiers of *France*, with a strict Charge to her never to return into *Spain*. As she was acquainted with *Philip V's* Signature, which the Colonel shewed to her, she no longer hesitated, but taking a white Handkerchief out of her Pocket, and clapping it to her Face, to hide the Shower of Tears that flowed from her Eyes, she walked in a seeming Hurry out of the Queen's Presence, without bidding adieu to her Majesty.

The Colonel of the Guards conducted her safe out of the *Spanish* Territories ; and she, upon her Arrival in *France*, went directly to *Rome*, where she took up her Residence for the Remainder of her Life. Some Years after, she died in that Capitol ; and though

she was immensely rich, we could learn but of two Bequests made by her, which were of no extraordinary Value; being only a Gold Snuff-Box, and a Silver Urinal.

The new Queen of *Spain* having been made easy in her Mind, by the Banishment of *Ursinos*, she continued her Journey from *Xadraquez* to *Madrid*. The King with the Prince of *Asturias*, who was then very young, attended by the *Grandeos* and other Courtiers, received her Majesty at *Guadalaxara*, a small City about nine Leagues distant from the Capitol, on *Christmas* Eve, 1714. It was here that *Philip* V. consummated his Marriage, and spent two Days in Caresses on the Queen; on the Third they made their Public Entry into *Madrid*, where Rejoicings were made for four Days successively, on account of the Marriage.

The Princess of *Parma* being thus seated, as King *Philip*'s Consort, on the *Spanish* Throne, she had recourse to all her Wit and Policy, in order to endear herself to the *Spanish* Nation, which doated on the late Queen, and whose Memory was constantly refreshed in their Minds, by the daily Sight of the Princes her Sons. The new Queen had

had brought an old Matron with her from her native Country, who had been her Wet-Nurse, and whose Name was *Laura*; but out of Respect to the Queen, the *Spaniards* conferred the Title of *Donia* on this *Laura*. The new *Donia* was full of Experience and Intrigues, and succeeded in the important Place of Favourite, not only to the disgraced *Ursinos*, but even to his Eminence Cardinal *del Giudici*, though Prime Minister, who was soon after disgraced.

As *Donia Laura* was of mean Birth, and of no great Delicacy in Points of Honour, she would stick at nothing to please her Mistress, and would stoop to every thing to gratify the Desire of her ambitious Queen, as shall be observed in the Sequel of this History: And the better to manage the Affairs committed to her Conduct, she had a beautiful young Daughter unprovided for, who appearing in the new Queen's Retinue, brought Numbers of Gallants of the first Rank to admire her, and pay their Court to *Donia Laura*, for her Daughter's Sake.

Alberoni, the *Italian* Priest, who had so successfully conducted the Affair of this Marriage, was placed at the Head of the Ministry, in the Room of Cardinal *del Giudici*;

and *Clement XI.* to give signal Marks of his Approbation, with respect to these Changes at the *Spanish* Court, sent a Cardinal's Cap to the new Prime Minister. Thus the *Italian* Faction was established at the Court of *Madrid*, and in its Councils, which constantly clashed with the *French* and *Spanish* Partizans, till with the Death of King *Philip* the Queen's Authority died also.

Before we enter into a Detail of this Queen's boundless Ambition, it will not be improper to give a short Account of these three Factions. And to begin with the *Spaniards*: They are a People, generally speaking, that do not admire Novelties, or Fashions, either in Politics, or Dress. They are highly contented with their Possessions in *Europe* and the *West-Indies*, and making War against the *Moors*, with whom they never have Peace; and nothing would lie heavy on their Hearts, were they once more in Possession of *Gibraltar* and *Minorca*.

The *French* Faction were so many Spies on the Court of *Spain*, and gave frequent Intelligence of what passed in her Councils to the Court of *Versailles*: But their chiefest Province was to influence the *Spanish* Ministers to second all the Schemes and Projects formed

formed by the Court of *France*: Whether they were to make new Acquisitions, or disturb the Peace of *Europe*, mattered nothing, so they could bring the *Spanish* Ministry to relish them, as they often did.

The *Italian* Faction were, first, for raising themselves to high Posts and Dignities, in which they succeeded to Admiration: But as soon as Don *Carlos* was born, they thought *Italy* of too narrow an Extent for that *Infant* to wield his Sceptre in. When the Queen was delivered of more Sons, the Church was forced to make Room for one of them; and though under Age, to confer the Archbishoprick of *Toledo*, with it's Revenues, and a Cardinal's Cap, on him.

These three Factions always jarred with one another: But the *French* were true to their Trust, and frequently brought the Court of *Spain* to adhere to their Master's Schemes and Plans. As for the *Spanish* Faction, some of them proved staunch to the last, and suffered themselves to be banished, rather than be guilty of any low Condescensions derogatory from their Honour. Others, seeing they had a foreign King and Queen to deal with, temporized, and became as assiduous in their Zeal to them as the *French* and *Italians*.
Since

Since the Death of Don *Lewis I.* King of *Spain*, the *Spanish* Faction had Don *Ferdinando*, Prince of *Asturias*, for their Patron; as the other two had the Catholic King and Queen. It is an easy thing to conceive of what little Weight this Faction could be, since the Prince himself was not allowed to go abroad, or take any Diverſion, without Leave. Soon after his Royal Highneſs's Marriage with the *Infanta* of *Portugal*, the *Spanish* Court went into *Andaluſia*; and being at *Seville*, the Prince of *Aſturias*, attended by his Courtiers, who were but few, went one Afternoon, to take a View of that noble and antient City, which before the *Parmesan* Queen's Time, had been the Emporium for Trade between *Spain* and the *West-Indies*, which Privilege was privately bought for a large Sum of Gold, (it need not be inquired of whom) and the Trade carried to *Cadiz*, where it ſtill remains.

The Preſumptive Heir to the *Spanish* Monarchy having appeared publicly in the Streets of *Seville*, a Thing not ſeen there for ſome Centuries before, all Ranks crowded to admire his Royal Highneſs as he paſſed by. The Concourse which followed Don *Ferdinando* was as extraordinary, as the Joy they expreſſed on that Occaſion; and the *Sevillians*

ans thought it their Duty to attend him with all Demonstrations of Fidelity, and bare-headed, till the Evening invited him to return to Court, whither they followed him to the very Gates, in great Order.

The Queen of *Spain*, who knew nothing of the Prince's being gone to take the Air, was in dreadful Agonies, when she heard that a numerous Crowd of People was approaching the Palace. The general Discontent she had given the *Spanish* Nation came first into her Mind; her next Thought was, that a Revolution was on the Point of being brought about in Favour of *Don Ferdinando*. The King's late Abdication, and his Desire to abdicate once more, confirmed her in these Apprehensions, till, from one of the Palace Windows, where she stood to observe the Motions of the Crowd, she perceived the Prince of *Asturias* advance towards the Gates, which he had no sooner entered, than the Concourse dispersed very quietly; and along with it, the Queen's Fears.

Don Ferdinando went directly to his own Apartment to salute his Consort, to whom he had been scarcely a Month married; but was no sooner got there, than the Queen sent for him. The Prince waited on her Majesty.

Majesty, who soon let him know her Business with him, by ordering his Highness never more to go abroad, or to appear in any Part of *Seville*, but when the whole Court was along with him; without telling him the Reasons why; and concluded with saying, *that as she was Queen of Spain, she expected to be obeyed.* The poor Prince durst not say nay, and paying a submissive Obedience, gave her Majesty to understand that he would religiously observe her Commands, but was not able to speak a Word to her.

Tho' the *Spanish* Court spent a considerable Time at *Seville*, *Cadiz*, *Granada*, and other Parts of *Andalusia*, whose Inhabitants were extremely well pleased with the Presence of the Royal Family and the whole Court, particularly with the Prince of *Asturias*, yet they could not help murmuring at his being kept cooped up like a *Minor*, by a Step-Mother, and a Foreigner. All this, however, was to no Purpose; for notwithstanding that Don *Ferdinando* was but newly married, and the King of *Portugal* his Father-in-Law ought to have resented the hard Usage received by the Prince and his Daughter, yet the Great and Powerful look on such Affairs as mere Trifles, though Persons of inferior

ferior Rank are too apt to resent the like Treatment.

Let us now return to examine the *Parmesan* Queen's Conduct. After she had settled her own Faction, the first Step she took was, by the Advice of *Alberoni* and Approbation of *Donia Laura*, to increase the Maritime Power of *Spain*, and to settle a Woollen Manufactory at *Guadalaxara*, the Place where she first embraced *Philip* the Vth; the Memory of which was so dear to her, it seems, that by this Means she would bring an Addition of Trade to that little City. A proper Person was sent to *Holland*, to purchase Ships; but the cunning *Dutch* would sell none to a Power of which they are always jealous; neither would they in any respect concur to strengthen a Nation from whose Yoke they had the good Fortune to rescue themselves; though not without the Treasure, Men, and Generals, as well as Ships of War, from *England*.

The chief Object which the Queen of *Spain* had in View, when she formed these Projects, was to ingratiate herself to the *Spanish* Nation, and thereby be enabled, at the Expence of the Public, to carry on the other Schemes she had hatched; and at the same time

time to distress, as much as she could, the *British* Trade, both by Sea and Land, in *Europe* and the *West-Indies*. The Possession of a Garrison, of so much Importance as that of *Gibraltar* would be to the *Spaniards*, (the Loss of which was looked upon as a Sort of Chain which threatened them with Slavery, while the *English* had got not only a Master Key to the strongest Gate of their Kingdom, but also that very Gate in their own Hands,) piqued them strongly against *Great Britain*.

The Queen was very sensible that the *Spanish* Wool was bought up and carried into *England*, where, being manufactured, was sold again to her Subjects at extravagant Prices. She also foresaw, that interfering in any Shape with the Woollen Trade, would alarm the *English*. However, she resolved to push on her Schemes at all Hazards. Woolcombers, Spinners, and Weavers were sent for to *France*; but not being able to bring any out of that Country for their purpose, *Holland*, which not long before had refused to sell her Ships, now supplied her with all sorts of Manufacturers to carry on a Woollen Trade. Some Hands were also brought from *Ireland*; but those latter were very few. The Woollen Manufactory has since that Time been carried

ried on with great Success at *Guadalaxara* and *Segovia*, though not brought to that Perfection as in *England*, nor in all its Branches; yet it serves to cloath all their Troops, and the middling as well as the common People.

But the Queen's favourite Scheme was, the driving of the *Germans* out of *Italy*, and the delivering the Duke of *Parma* from the Terrors which the Pretensions formed by the Emperor on his States were wont to give him. This she concealed under the specious Colouring of seeing with Sorrow the Provinces, lately dependant on the Crown of *Spain*, torn from it; which Discourse she was sensible would prove pleasing to the *Spaniards*, and particularly to the *Grandeess* who possessed many Posts and Employments in that Country, when *Spain* held *Milan*, *Naples*, *Sicily* and *Sardinia*.

The Emperor was at the same time engaged in a Bloody War with the *Turks*; and she concluded that a more seasonable Opportunity could not present itself, for wresting some of the Provinces out of his Hands which Necessity had compelled *Spain* to yield to him, by the Treaty of *Utrecht*. The better to conceal her Design, she pressed the equipping

equipping of a Fleet, which was sent to join the *Venetians* against the *Turks*, by Means of which *Corfu* was saved from the *Infidel* Yoke.

The next Step she took, was to procure from the Pope a Bull, empowering the King of *Spain* to raise a large Sum of Money from his Clergy, on Pretence that it was to be employed against the Enemies of Christianity and the Catholic Church. This likewise gave her an Opportunity of carrying on, without any Suspicion, a Naval Armament, which would otherwise have alarmed all *Europe*, and from which the *Venetians* expected great Advantages. This Expedition, notwithstanding, was designed against *Sardinia*, though it had been given up by Treaty to the Emperor. As this was a manifest Infraction of the Treaties of *Utrecht* and *Baden*, nothing could happen that would so soon revive that Alliance which had made the *French* and *Spanish* Monarchies totter before. The Queen, foreseeing the Consequences which might attend this warlike Preparation, caused a Letter to be sent by the Marquis *Grimaldi*, one of her principal Secretaries of State, to the *Spanish* Ambassadors at the several Courts of *Europe*, dated on the 9th of *August*, N. S. 1717, to persuade, if possible, those

those Courts of her upright Intentions. *Risum teneatis Amici.*

SIR,

“ It is not to be doubted that the Passage
 “ of the King's Forces for the Reduction of
 “ the Island of *Sardinia*, at a Time when
 “ all the Christian States had Reason to per-
 “ suade themselves that this Armament was
 “ designed to reinforce the Christian Fleet,
 “ against the common Enemy, according to
 “ the generous Offers which his Majesty had
 “ made to his Holiness, has much surprized
 “ your Excellency, as well as the Public,
 “ seeing that I myself have been extremely
 “ astonished at it; and who having the Ho-
 “ nour of being so near his Majesty, may
 “ be allowed so much the more to know
 “ what no Body is unacquainted with of that
 “ Prince; that is, his Uprightness, his Ju-
 “ stice, his Religious Observance of his Royal
 “ Word; his extreme Delicacy in Matters
 “ of Conscience, and his Superiority of Spi-
 “ rit in Adversity, which makes him sur-
 “ pass his Predecessors, the most Catholic
 “ and most Holy.

“ In the mean time, who can imagine
 “ that a Prince, adorned with all these Vir-
 “ tues, forgetting himself so much, as we

D

“ may

“ may say, should undertake an Act of Ho-
 “ stility against the Arch-Duke *, at a Time
 “ when he had so dangerous a War upon his
 “ Hands with the *Turks*, and even when
 “ the Coasts of the Ecclesiastical State were
 “ threatened with an Invasion? The Case
 “ being thus, no Body can reason otherwise,
 “ than that the Motives must be very great
 “ and very pressing, that should force such
 “ a Resolution. Motives, which, after a long
 “ and surprizing Silence, I have at last been
 “ informed of, from the living Oracle of their
 “ Majesties sacred Mouths, with Order to
 “ communicate it to your Excellency.

“ Greatness of Soul made his Majesty bear
 “ with the dismembering of his Dominions,
 “ which the Plenipotentiaries would sacrifice
 “ to the Tranquility of *Europe*. Afterwards
 “ he persuaded himself that those stipulated
 “ Sacrifices would, at least, have secured to
 “ him the Rest of this Nation. But no
 “ sooner had he complied with the Surren-
 “ der of *Sicily*, in Favour of the Repose of
 “ *Spain*, on Condition of the Evacuation of
 “ *Catalonia* and the Island of *Majorca*, than
 “ he discovered that the Orders sent for that
 “ Purpose

* The Court of *Spain* never gave the Emperor any
 other Title, till the Treaty of *Vienna* was concluded by
Riperda in 1725.

" Purpose were concealed: And when, at
 " last, it came to the Knowledge of his Allies,
 " it was pretended that the Treaty should be
 " executed, by virtue whereof his Majesty
 " demanded the Evacuation of those Places.

" Nothing was more easy for that Pur-
 " pose, than for the Garrisons of the Arch-
 " Duke to have surrendered to the King's
 " Troops, the Gates of the Places they pos-
 " sessed, in the same Manner as was reci-
 " procally practised among the Potentates of
 " *Europe*; but, on the contrary, the Generals
 " of the Arch-Duke violating the Public
 " Faith of the Treaties, and the reciprocal
 " Engagements, abandoned the Places to
 " the *Catalans*, making them at the same
 " time believe that they would soon return;
 " and thereby fomented their disquiet and re-
 " bellious Spirit, so far as to induce them to
 " think of a furious and obstinate Resistance;
 " which was the more injurious to his Ma-
 " jesty as it was powerful. The Generals,
 " when they embarked, permitted that the
 " Horses of their Troops should be left and
 " abandoned to the Rebels: They had even
 " a Design to deliver *Ostalrique* to them; a
 " Place that had been put into their Hands,
 " for the more easy and safe Embarkation of
 " their Troops.

" What Expences ! what Destruction !
 " what Afflictions and Miseries have not this
 " Violation of Faith and Contravention of
 " Treaties, which ought to be sacred, brought
 " upon *Spain*? The Continuation of the
 " War had been less sensible, and the Losses
 " it might have brought, more glorious to
 " *Spain*.

" With all this the King, for the Love of
 " Peace, dissembled, and shut his Eyes upon
 " the continued Succours that came from
 " *Naples*, to support the Boldness of the Re-
 " bels, in hopes of procuring, Step by Step,
 " Repose for his Subjects, after so long and
 " ruinous a War. How much more easy
 " would it have been for his Majesty to have
 " invaded, with his powerful Armies, the
 " Dominions the Arch-Duke possessed, to
 " make him sensible of the injurious and in-
 " fidious Treatment he had been guilty of?
 " But, notwithstanding all this, his Breach
 " of Faith did not stop there.

" Letters were sent to the Generals and
 " Governors of *Majorca*, to surrender it to
 " the King; but contrary Orders, secretly
 " given, animated them to delay the Per-
 " formance, and gain Time for the Arrival
 " of *German* Succours to force *Spain* to a
 " new

“ new War, and to plunge the Kingdom into
 “ fresh Expences and Miseries ; but the King
 “ having made himself Master of the City,
 “ the Island was delivered to him.

“ It must naturally be believed, that these
 “ manifest and authentic Acts of the Breach
 “ of Faith did not end there. The Mi-
 “ nistry of *Vienna* went so far as to approve
 “ of them by public Demonstrations, and by
 “ the Recompences given to the most obsti-
 “ nate Rebels, and to those who had di-
 “ stinguished themselves by their criminal
 “ Operations ; declaring themselves thereby
 “ the Authors of Actions so injurious, com-
 “ mitted by a People so unworthy, so vile,
 “ and so perfidious.

“ The War which the *Turks* had declared
 “ against the Emperor, certainly presented to
 “ his Majesty a fair Opportunity of reveng-
 “ ing himself, and opened a Door to re-enter
 “ the Dominions usurped from him. But,
 “ instead of taking Advantage of that Con-
 “ juncture, he not only condescended, not to
 “ disturb the Peace of *Italy*, but in Opposi-
 “ tion to his own Interest, he indirectly con-
 “ tributed to the aggrandizing of his Enemy,
 “ by employing his Forces, out of a Motive
 “ of Religion, to reinforce the Allies of the

“ Arch-Duke, and assist them in conquering
 “ the *Turks*.

“ The King, after this, believed that a
 “ Conduct so sincere and disinterested would
 “ have produced, in the Mind of the Arch-
 “ Duke, if not a Desire of Peace, at least the
 “ Attention and Regard which is observed
 “ even among declared Enemies, and the
 “ Generals of Armies in Sight of one another,
 “ among whom reciprocal Civilities are com-
 “ mon. But far from following that Prac-
 “ tice, injurious Declarations have been pub-
 “ lished at *Vienna*, in *Italy*, and in *Flanders*,
 “ against the Person of the King, and against
 “ his Crown ; and proceeded so far as to have
 “ the Inquisitor-General of *Spain* to be seized,
 “ notwithstanding that he was furnished with
 “ a Passport from the Pope, with the Con-
 “ sent and Approbation of Cardinal *Schrot-*
 “ *tenbach*.

“ This last Act has recalled to his Maje-
 “ sty's Mind, the past Offences, and the Ob-
 “ ligations that lie on a King to revenge him-
 “ self, and acquire Satisfaction for the Injuries
 “ he has suffered ; which he cannot dispense
 “ with, without weakening his Authority in
 “ the Minds of his Subjects, who will look
 “ upon him as incapable of securing their
 “ Repose,

“ Repose, if he puts up the Affronts that are
 “ offered to his Regal Dignity.

“ Upon the whole, it is to be considered that
 “ the Ministry of *Vienna* have, at all times,
 “ sought all Means possible to humble the
 “ Minds of a Nation, so scrupulous and nice in
 “ the Point of Honour, and who take all pub-
 “ lic Injuries offered to their King as a great
 “ Offence. Nothing but these serious Con-
 “ siderations could have put a Stop to the
 “ Course of his Majesty's Intentions, of send-
 “ ing the powerful Succours that were pre-
 “ pared against the Enemy of the Arch-Duke,
 “ the *Turk*, and excite his Justice to employ
 “ them in a lawful Vengeance.

“ Your Excellency is charged to make
 “ known, that his Majesty, who has con-
 “ curred in adjusting the Differences of *Rome*,
 “ with a Zeal and Intention so pure, for
 “ the Good and Honour of the Church,
 “ could never, without the most powerful
 “ Motives, have stopped those Forces with
 “ which he was always disposed to aggran-
 “ dize it: And it is a great Mortification to
 “ me, to see that these Succours, demand-
 “ ed by his Holiness, are for some time de-
 “ layed, which his Majesty through a just
 “ Resentment, cannot avoid. It were to be
 “ hoped that the Conduct of the Ministry

“ of so considerable a Prince as is the Arch-
 “ Duke, had been regulated and proportioned
 “ to the Dignity of a Sovereign; and that
 “ they had not exposed themselves to the
 “ just Blame that is due to a continual and
 “ manifest Want of good Faith.”

This Letter, though wrote with great Art, had not the desired Effect. His Majesty King *George I.* had, on the 25th of *May* 1716, signed a Treaty with the Emperor at *London*, whereby he obliged himself to prevent the ambitious Views of the Court of *Spain* from taking place. In order to this, he formed a Scheme for uniting the Duke of *Orleans*, then Regent of *France*, and the *States-General* with himself, in the Measures necessary for the Support of the Tranquility of *Europe*. His Majesty sent Orders for this Purpose to his Ministers at the Courts aforementioned, to make pressing Representations on this Head. Mr. *Stanhope*, at present Earl of *Harrington*, was sent to *Madrid*, to second the no less pressing Instances of his Minister at that Court, to obtain a Delay of the Expedition against *Sardinia*.

The *Deputies* of the *States General*, agreeable to his *Britannic* Majesty's Scheme, made some Remonstrances on the Conduct of the *Spanish*

Spanish Court, to the Marquis of *Berretti-landi*, who had the Charge of his Catholic Majesty's Affairs at that Time at the *Hague*. To which he answered with a Recital of the Marquis of *Grimaldi's* Letter to him. But finding that such Pretexs had no great Effect on the *States*, and that they had taken a Resolution of acting with more Vigour than usual, he changed his Conduct; and on the Arrival of a Courier from *Spain*, whom, he pretended, had brought fresh Instructions, he demanded a Conference, in which he presented a *Memorial*, drawn up in a Stile peculiar to his great Talants and Eloquence.

In this *Memorial* he again referred himself to the Marquis of *Grimaldi's* Letter; and then, as a Specimen of the infinite Subject of Complaint which he had in his Hand, he mentioned several extraordinary Instances of the Emperor's insidious Behaviour, alledging that the Arch-Duke had violated the *Treaty* of *Neutrality* concluded both for *Spain* and *Italy*, by seizing on the Person of Father *Molinos*, the Grand-Inquisitor, in the *Milaneze*, on his Journey from *Rome*, and continued to detain him his Prisoner. *Berretti-landi* likewise urged, " That by the *Treaty* of "*Neutrality*, *Italy* had been put under Co-
" ver; notwithstanding which, heavy Con-
" tributions

" tributions had been raised upon them after-
 " wards. That the Arch-Duke kept at *Vi-*
 " *enna*, what he called, a *Council for Spain*,
 " wherein nothing was transacted but what
 " tended to disturb his Catholic Majesty's
 " Repose. That the Emperor aimed at no-
 " thing less than engrossing all *Italy* to him-
 " self; and that they might easily foresee
 " what ought to be expected from the Arch-
 " Duke, since he had seized on *Mantua*, the
 " Citadel of *Italy*, notwithstanding the just
 " Rights of a certain *Family* so powerfully
 " attached to him, that all the Artifice of the
 " *Aulic* Council could never justify such an
 " Usurpation. Let me farther (says this crafty
 " Minister) remark to your High Mightinesses,
 " that the Point his *Britannic Majesty* and
 " yourselves seem to have in view, is, the Sup-
 " porting of the *Ballance* of Power in *Europe*.
 " The *Ballance* of Power in *Europe* depends
 " immediately on a *Ballance* of Power in
 " *Italy*; and it would be extremely odd to
 " think of maintaining that, by seconding
 " the Pretensions of a Prince who endeavours
 " to overturn it."

The Marquis concluded this *Memorial*
 with the strongest Assurances of his Ca-
 tholic Majesty's Friendship to their *High*
Mightinesses, and friendly Inclinations to-
 wards

wards the *Dutch* in Point of Trade, &c. By these Assurances, which the Marquis gave constantly in private Discourse, as well as on public Occasions, he expected to carry his Point, both with those in the Government and with the People.

As for the Queen of *Spain*, ever since she ascended the Throne, she affected great Secrecy in all her Projects, in which she was so fortunate as to amuse the Princes of *Europe* for many Months; and in that Time she persuaded her Grandees that she had nothing more at Heart than the Glory and Interest of the *Spanish* Monarchy; under Pretence of supporting which, she drew immense Sums from them, partly by fair Means, and partly by Force, which she employed in raising Armies, building Ships, repairing Fortresses, establishing Manufactures, and embroiling the Powers of *Europe*, that she might carry on her own Schemes without Interruption. And as for the *Italian* Princes, they had all the Reason in the World to be pleased with her Conduct, since her darling Project was to free *Italy* from the Terrors of the House of *Austria*.

To effect this, she resolved to establish her Right of Succession to *Parma* and *Placentia*,
and

and even *Tuscany* in her own Issue. She projected the Conquest of *Sardinia* and *Sicily* by Force of Arms. That of *Naples* was to follow, as well as that of the *Milanese* and the *Mantuan*, if Success attended her. In the Course of her Enterprizes, she stripped the Emperor of *Sardinia*, before any Body was aware of it. She afterwards duped the King of *Sicily*, by a feigned Negotiation for the Exchange of that Kingdom for *Naples*, while she made Preparations for the Conquest of that Island, which she almost compleated.

Spain now began to wear a new Face, and in the Space of a few Months, from being the most dejected, became the most considerable Court in *Europe*. Money circulated every where. There sprung up an Appearance of Trade and Business where it never had been heard of. The Government employed a great Number of Persons in several Kinds of Work, and paid them generously and punctually. If Fleets were fitted out, they were not for Show. If Money was raised on the People, the meanest of them knew to what Uses it was converted.

His late Majesty *George I.* King of *Great Britain*, appeared, from his ascending that Throne, a Prince to whom Fortune had given

ven nothing more than he deserved. Some sanguine People however expected he would have relinquished the Peace of *Utrecht*; but his Majesty was of another way of thinking, and resolved, if possible, to keep both his Subjects and his Neighbours in Peace. With this Design, he entered into very strict Alliances with the Emperor and with *France*. When the Queen of *Spain's* Projects began to take Effect, he immediately concerted Measures for supporting the Ballance of Power in *Europe*, or rather for maintaining a certain System which his Majesty and his Allies thought necessary, for the Preservation of the Public Tranquility. After the Conquest of *Sardinia*, his *Britannic* Majesty expressly declared, " That he should think himself obliged to assist the Emperor, if any Attempt should be made on his *Italian* Dominions;" which Declaration, in all Probability, saved *Naples*. Not that King *George* intended to abandon *Sardinia* to *Spain*, but by stopping her Career, for the present, to gain Time for a Negotiation, which he soon after set on foot for a general Peace.

France was at this Time governed by the Duke of *Orleans*, under the Title of Regent, in as absolute a Manner as any of her Princes had ever done. He had prodigious Designs
in

in View, and saw himself under a Necessity of cultivating a strict Friendship with *Great Britain*, and of watching over the Designs of *Spain*, where he knew that neither their Majesties nor their Ministers Designs were favourable to him; he therefore took such Steps as to him seemed most adviseable, without the Privity of the Court of *Madrid*. In this Disposition he sent the *Abbé du Bois* to *London*, to regulate there the Expedients which should be found necessary for preserving the Peace of *Europe*, and in Consequence of whose Negotiations the Quadruple Alliance was formed.

As for their *High Mighnesses* the *States General*, they consulted on this, as they do on all other Occasions, the Welfare of their Constituents; that is to say, they heard all Parties, conferred with all Parties, and did all that lay in their Power to be upon good Terms with all Parties. Their Interest and Inclinations led them to wish well to the Projects of *Great Britain* and *France*; but as they apprehended that the Execution of those Projects might possibly embarrass their Trade, though they gave good Words to the Ministers of *London*, *Vienna*, and *Versailles*, yet they gave no bad ones to the Minister of the Court of *Madrid*.

The

The Queen had some Thoughts of caring for the *English* Nation, and of securing their Friendship by favouring their Trade: But having discovered their Engagements with the Emperor, and being fully informed by a Spy, whom Cardinal *Alberoni* had sent to *Hanover*, of all that had been concerted there, between King *George* and the Emperor, she determined to take another Course, and immediately began to intrigue with the Courts of *Moscovy* and *Sweden*; which she earnestly sought to engage in the Interest of the *Chevalier de St. George*, while she projected an Invasion from *Spain*. She likewise contrived a Method for employing the Regent so effectually at Home, that he could have no Opportunity of looking Abroad.

With this View she persuaded the King, her Consort, to assume the Title of *Regent* of *France*; she influenced many of the *French* Nobility to oppose the Regent's Designs; and at length engaged one of the Princes of the Blood to enter into her Measures. Her chief Agents in this extraordinary Business were Cardinal *Alberoni*, who had a great Share in forming all the Queen's Schemes; Prince *Cellamere*, and the *Abbé Portocarrero*, who were both at *Paris*; the first with a Public Character, and the *Abbé* only as a private,
but

but intriguing Gentleman. All the Papers and Instructions sent from time to time to Prince *Cellamere*, were drawn up by the Baron *de Ripperda*.

As to the *Dutch*, the Marquis *de Berrettin-landi* was instructed to magnify the Advantages they might receive from their living on good Terms with the *Spanish* Court, and the great Hazard their Trade must run in case of a Rupture. These were the Methods used by Queen *Elizabeth Farnesio*, and the intriguing Priest, to baffle the greatest Powers, and the greatest Politicians in *Europe*. The Queen and her Prime Minister had created such Difficulties to those Powers which opposed their Views, that nothing but Providence could prevent *Great Britain* and *France* from being plunged into all the Miseries of a Civil War, in consequence of their politic Contrivances.

The first Discovery of the Design formed against the *Regent* was made in *England*, by the Confessions of some Persons, who were taken up for endeavouring to raise a Rebellion in this Kingdom. His *Britannic* Majesty having acquainted the Duke of *Orleans* of what he suspected, his Royal Highness could not help being greatly amazed thereat; for Prince *Cellamere* had so great an Influence
over

over him, and was so well looked on by the *Regent*, that he persuaded him to send Orders to *Abbé du Bois*, to avoid acquiescing, for some Time, in the Measures taken by the *British* Ministry, in Opposition to *Spain*.

Immediately on this Information, *Abbé Portocarrero* was arrested, as he was returning into *Spain*, on mere Suspicion, because he hazarded his Life to save his Cloak-Bag, which by the overturning of his Chaise, fell into a River. The Dispatches in that Cloak-Bag discovered the whole Secret of the *French* Conspiracy; which was of such a Nature, that it struck all the World with Terror. There was not only a Rebellion to be raised, as had been attempted in *England*, but regular Forces were introduced out of *Spain* into that Kingdom, and even into the Neighbourhood of *Paris*, though no Body knew how. The *Regent* was to have been seized, and carried Prisoner to *Segovia*, and the whole Government changed.

On this Discovery, the Prince *Cellamere* was invited to a Conference, where he was secured, and his Papers seized in the mean time. It then appeared, that the Queen of *Spain's* Intrigues were still more dangerous than they had ever been apprehended before,
E because

because Addreffes were found among *Cellamere's* Papers from the Nobility and Clergy of *France* to King *Philip*; setting forth the distressed Condition in which they were, the oppressive Administration of the Regent, and the Fears they laboured under for the King's Safety; beseeching him not to forget the Tenderneſs due to his native Country, but to exert the Force of *Spain* to ſave *France*; which, by exerting her utmoſt Power, had ſeated him on the Throne of *Spain*.

The Duke of *Orleans* treated theſe Papers as Fictions and Forgeries, though he knew very well they were genuine. However, he had the Army at his Devotion, and therefore, without any Heſitation, he declared War againſt *Spain*, and made Preparations for invading that Kingdom; as he ſoon after did with an Army of Sixty Thouſand Men, the Command of which he gave to Marſhal *Berwick*, who in about forty Days Time took *Fuanterabia*, the ſtrongeſt Fortreſs in the Kingdom of *Navarre*. The Bulk of *Philip* the Fifth's Forces was at this Juncture employed in the Conqueſt of *Sicily*, and could ſcarcely muſter above Sixteen Thouſand Men, Horſe and Foot, with whom his Majeſty and the Queen took the Field, but never approached the Enemy, or entered the ſame Province with them.

The

The Emperor *Charles VI.* was on such good Terms with his Allies, that they not only stipulated to preserve for him all the Dominion he, at that Time, had in *Italy*, but also to procure for him the Restitution of *Sardinia* and *Sicily*. *France*, under the Direction of the Regent, concurred heartily in compelling King *Philip* to accept of the Terms prescribed to him by the Quadruple Alliance. The King of *Great Britain* sent a strong Fleet under the Command of Sir *George Byng* into the *Mediterranean*, with Instructions to mediate by fair Means, or by foul; which Method of negotiating being entirely new to the Queen of *Spain*, and her Prime Minister *Alberoni*, all her Schemes were, for that Time, overturned.

The Defeating of the *Spanish* Fleet in the *Pharo* of *Messina*, without any Loss to Sir *George's* Squadron, shewed that the Naval Force of *Spain* was but a Phantom. The transporting of Imperial Troops into *Sicily*, by the same Admiral, destroyed all the Hopes conceived by the Queen of *Spain*, of the speedy Reduction of that Island. The rapid Progress of the *French* Army which entered *Spain* by Land, the incredible Mischief done both by the *English* and *French* in the *Spanish* Ports; all these Disasters, we say, reduced

the *Spanish* Monarch to great Extremities. But as Kings and Queens cannot do wrong, in the Administration of Affairs, all the Blame of these Miscarriages was laid upon *Alberoni*; though they did not break the Queen's Spirit, or oblige her to abandon her Designs, as has been often seen by her Conduct since.

On the 5th of *December*, 1719, Cardinal *Alberoni* received Orders to appear no more in any Councils, nor to enter into the Royal Presence, or that of any of the Royal Family; to leave *Madrid* in eight Days, and the Dominions of *Spain* in three Weeks; which King *Philip* signified to be a necessary Act, for removing all Obstacles to a General Peace. The Cardinal obeyed, and on the 17th of *February* following the Marquis *de Berrettin-landi* signed the Quadruple Alliance, which, for some time, gave a new Face to the Affairs of *Europe*.

We need not mention the Conditions of Peace granted to *Spain* by this Alliance; but those demanded by that Crown were,
 1. All the Places dismembered from the *Spanish* Monarchy, either in *Europe*, or *America*. 2. That his Catholic Majesty should be at Liberty to transport his Forces, Artillery, &c. from *Sicily* to *Spain*. All the Men
 of

of War and Gallies taken on the 11th of *August*, 1718, to be restored, as also a certain Vessel seized in the Port of *Brest*. 4. That the Cession of *Sardinia*, in favour of the House of *Austria*, should be on the same Terms as the Cession made to the Duke of *Savoy*; that is, with a *Salvo* to his Catholic Majesty's Rights. 5. That *Gibraltar* and *Port Mahon* should be restored to *Spain*. 6. That *Orbitello*, *Porto Hercole*, and their Dependancies should be also restored. 7. That the Right of Succession to the Dutchies of *Parma* and *Placentia* should be secured to the Heirs Male of the Queen of *Spain*, who, by these Demands, has regulated her future Views.

The active Queen of *Spain*, who could never be at rest, and whose Genius constantly prompted fresh Projects to her, reflecting on the great Share the Duke of *Orleans*, as Regent of *France*, had in settling the Emperor's Interests, in Opposition to all her Schemes, sought at last to bring him into her Measures, by proposing three Matches to him at once: The first between *Lewis XV.* and the *Infanta* her Daughter; the second between Don *Lewis*, Prince of *Asturias* and *Infant* of *Spain*, and a Daughter of the Regent's; and the third between her own Son

and Heir, Don *Carlos*, the present King of *Naples* and *Sicily*, and *Madame de Baujolois*, another of the Regent's Daughters.

The Regent readily came into this Scheme, as he proposed thereby to be the more able to push on and compass his own Views; which, according to the Discourses of those Days, and the Jealousies of the *French* Nation, were no less than to place himself on the *Gallic* Throne. The Duke of *Orleans* was well skilled in Chemistry, and as the Minor King continued to be of a weakly Constitution, it was apprehended that the Regent had in Fact given him a Dose of slow Poison, which, in time, would carry him into the other World, before he could attain the Age or Strength of cohabiting with a Queen, in case he should be married; or of leaving any Issue. Besides, *Lewis* was at this Juncture but just turned of Thirteen, being born on the 10th of *February*, N. S. 1710, and the *Infanta* of *Spain*, who by this Project was proposed for his future Queen, only entered into the fifth Year of her Age; so that the young King must wait several Years before he could expect to have Issue by her.

Two Ambassadors were sent from the Court of *Spain* to that of *Versailles*, to give the

the greater Weight to this extraordinary Negotiation. The Regent, by starting no Difficulties to these Treaties of Marriages, was sure that King *Philip* would drop his Pretensions to the Regency, and would not pry so narrowly into his own Conduct, as he had done before. The Articles of Marriage between those Princes were soon agreed upon and signed, by the Ministers appointed by both Courts for that Purpose. Soon after, that is, in the Lent Season, 1723, the *Infanta* of *Spain* was conducted to the Frontiers of both Kingdoms, and there delivered to the *French* Lords and Ladies, who were sent by the Regent to receive her; and his own two Daughters, *Madame Montpensier*, and *Madame Baujolois*, were put into the Hands of the *Spanish* Grandees and Ladies, who were sent from *Madrid*, to conduct them to Court.

The Prince of *Asturias*, afterwards King *Lewis* the First, was the most promising of all the young Princes in *Europe*; had an amiable Person, and a Sweetness of Temper, scarcely to be equalled. *Madam Montpensier* was full of *French* Gaity, but no Beauty, no more than her Sister, *Madam Baujolois*, who was contracted to *Don Carlos*. However, the Queen was highly pleased with the Success of

her Scheme, having thereby secured to herself the Regent's Interest; and the *Spanish* Nation were no less pleased, having conceived great Hopes, that the Infant Don *Lewis* would have Issue, which might defeat certain favourite, though dangerous and wicked Projects, they had but lately discovered, which the Queen had at Heart in favour of her own Children.

The Year following, which was that of 1724, the Duke of *Orleans*, and Regent of *France*, died suddenly at *Versailles*. Various were the Conjectures formed on account of his untimely Death. Some said, that he was poisoned, which was but a just Vengeance * on him, by falling into the very Snare he had prepared for the young King. Others reported, that he died in the Embraces of a Mistress who lay with him that Night, and found him dead by her, when she got out of her Slumber in the Morning. All agree, that he went to Bed in very good Health, and whether he was carried off by a violent or natural Cause, we shall not pretend to say; but certain we are, that his Death was not regretted in *France*; for, on the contrary, the whole

* *Nec Lex est justior ulla, quam Necis Artifices, Arte perire sua.*

whole Nation seemed to rejoice at it, and expressed themselves in such a Manner as if they had been delivered from the cruel Yoke of Slavery.

The *French* Ministry having no longer to do with a Man, who had used them as so many Tools, and made them all subservient to his Schemes, began to open their Eyes, and consider of the true Interest both of their King and Country. The Duke of *Bourbon* became Regent, as the next Prince of the Blood: The Match concluded for *Lewis XV.* with the *Infanta* of *Spain* was disapproved, in as much as her tender Age made her incapable, for the present, of getting an Heir for the Crown; of which it stood in very great need. An extraordinary Council was thereupon immediately called, wherein it was resolved, that notwithstanding the Ties of Blood, and the Treaties subsisting between the *French* and *Spanish* Courts, the *Infanta* should be sent back to the Court of *Madrid*, and the King be married to another Princess capable of getting Successors for the Crown.

This Resolution was taken without the Privy of the Court of *Spain*, whose Ministers at *Paris* knew nothing of the Matter, till Orders were given for the *Infanta's* Journey to

to the Frontiers, on her Return home. Couriers were then dispatched, one from the *French* Ministry to the Ambassador from the young King at the Catholic Court; and another from the *Spanish* Ministers to the Prime Minister at *Madrid*, with this disagreeable News.

Though the Queen of *Spain* had met with several Checks from the Powers of *Europe*, and particularly from the late Regent and *Great Britain*, from the Time she ascended the Throne, yet nothing ever mortified her so much, as the Return of her Daughter. She all along flattered herself, that by her Means, as soon as her Age would permit the King of *France* to consummate his Marriage, she should influence all the Councils at *Versailles*, and prove successful in all her Intrigues. But such is the Instability and Uncertainty of human Affairs, that the very Man, on whose great and absolute Authority she depended most, was snatched out of the World, without any Apprehensions of the Approach of Death. The Duke of *Bourbon*, who succeeded as Regent, after the Death of the Duke of *Orleans*, and all the *French* Nation became so odious to the Queen of *Spain*, that she came to a Resolution of throwing herself into the Arms of her Enemies, in hopes of being revenged on that perfidious People: And in order to begin with a Shew of as much Resentment

sentment at the Indignation, as her Majesty termed it, that was put on her Daughter, and, in her Person, on the *Spanish* Nation in general, (which she has always taken Care to bring into her Quarrels,) she caused the Princess of *Baujolois* to be sent back into *France*. She would have treated her Sister, who was married to the Prince of *Asturias*, with the same Tenderneſs, had they not gone through the Ceremony of Conſumation.

However, when the Infant Don *Lewis* came to be King of *Spain*, through *Philip* the Fifth's Abdication, as we have already obſerved, his Queen having diverted herſelf in too free a Manner with her Ladies, at *Aranjuez*, for three or four Days, Report was made thereof by ſome Sycophants, who commonly ſwarm at Courts, to the old Queen; whereupon an Order was ſent to confine her reigning Maſteſty to her Apartments, in the Palace of *Madrid*. The young King durſt not find fault with this Procedure, though an Inſtance of the like Nature was never known before. King *Philip*, by his Abdication, had diveſted himſelf of all manner of Power, which, by the ſame Act, he had yielded up, along with the Crown, to his eldeſt Son; notwithstanding, the abdicated Queen had ſtill ſuch an Influence, and continued to act with
ſo

so much Authority, that the Liberty of the Princess upon the Throne was not beyond her Reach. King *Lewis I.* died soon after, and his Dowager rejoiced that she was permitted to return to her native Country.

During these Transactions, a Congress had been held at *Cambray*, to settle, in a peaceable Manner, the various Differences between the clashing Powers of *Europe*; particularly between the Emperor and *Philip V.* in which, however, nothing was concluded, though it had lasted for three Years. This induced *Spain* privately to send Baron *de Riperda* to the Court of *Vienna*, with full and ample Power for entering into a separate Treaty with the Emperor, on certain Conditions, which need not be here mentioned. This was looked upon, by the *Spanish* Ministry, as the only Expedient for removing all the Obstacles which prevented these two Courts from holding any Commerce or Correspondence together, or of acknowledging or granting to each other, the Titles by which they possessed their Crowns.

Riperda, on his Arrival at *Vienna*, waited upon the Ministers of the Imperial Court, to whom he communicated the Motive of his Journey; a Thing no ways expected, or so much as dreamed of, at that Court. The
next

next Day he was admitted to an Audience of the Emperor, and having presented his Credentials, proper Persons were appointed to treat with the Baron. Conferences were frequently held by the Imperial Ministers and Monsieur *Riperda* for six Months successively, without any Hopes of adjusting the rough and almost insurmountable Difficulties that daily started. Baron *de Riperda* despairing, at last, of being able to bring Matters to a happy Issue, put an End to the Conferences, and took his Leave in order for his Return to *Madrid*.

Having set out, for that Purpose, from the Capital of *Austria*, he had not travelled many Miles, when he was met by a Courier, dispatched to him from the Court of *Spain*, with fresh Instructions, and more ample Powers, which obliged him to turn back to the next Village, where he stopped, to peruse the Packet he had received. The first Thing he read was a Letter from the Queen of *Spain* to him, bitterly inveighing and complaining of the Indignity shewn her by the Court of *France*, in sending the *Infanta* home to her; and charging the Baron, at the same Time, to over-look all Niceties and Punctilios, and to conclude a Treaty, at all Events, with the Emperor. Monsieur *Riperda* having thoroughly

roughly examined his Packet, and refreshed himself, he proceeded once more to *Vienna*, and acquainted the Ministry, particularly those with whom he had before conferred, with his Return. The next Day he waited upon his Imperial Majesty, to whom he opened the Motives which brought him so suddenly back.

The Emperor and his whole Court appeared well pleased with the Differences that had happened between the most Christian and Catholic Monarchs, and doubted not but he should reap some Advantage from the same. Orders were given to the *Aulic* Ministers, who had held the Conferences before with the Baron, to renew them, and not to recede from any thing insisted upon at their first Meeting. *Riperda*, on the other hand, in Compliance with his Instructions, gave up every thing that was demanded of him, such as the Title of *Catholic King*, which the late Emperor *Charles VI.* bore to his Death; the Privilege of creating Knights of the *Golden Fleece*; supporting of the *Ostend* Company, to the Prejudice of the *British* and *Dutch* Trade; the Imperial Claims and Pretensions in *Italy*, confirmed by *Spain*; and the several other Articles which were never before listened to.

A Treaty

A Treaty of Commerce, as well as an offensive Treaty, was at the same time concluded between the two Courts; in the latter of which, it was clearly made out by a certain Right * Reverend *British* Writer, that the two Courts had stipulated to set the *Chevalier* on the Throne of these Realms, and to recover *Gibraltar* and *Port Mahon*, in which their joint Forces were to be employed. By this Accommodation the two Monarchs were to give Laws to all *Europe*, and the Queen of *Spain* was sure of becoming an Over-match for *France*. The Plenipotentiaries, who were employed at the Congress of *Cambray* continued their Conferences, all this Time, and knew nothing of what had been transacted at *Vienna* till *Riperda's* Treaties were ratified, and made public by the Court of *Madrid*.

The Congress, having no further Business to do, broke up; but the Courts of *London* and *Versailles* took the Alarm, and though it may be reckoned an unnatural Thing, yet they ran into one another's Arms, and concluded the Treaty of *Hanover*, in a few Weeks after the Treaty of *Vienna* had been made public; by means of which *Great Britain* and *France* were

* See the Enquiry into the Conduct of certain Foreign Courts, printed in 1727.

were in a Condition to oppose all the Attempts of the Emperor and *Spain*. In *February*, 1727, the *Spaniards* laid Siege to *Gibraltar*, which lasted near six Months, without any Advantage to the Besiegers: It was then that *Spain* discovered the little or no Advantage she could expect from the Imperial Alliance; for though several large Sums were sent from the Court of *Madrid* to that of *Vienna*, to which the Queen contributed very liberally, yet during this long and expensive Siege, she could draw no manner of Succour on this Score from *Charles VI.* nor prevail upon him to make a Diversion either in *France*, or in a certain Electorate in her Favour. There was no Probability of taking *Gibraltar*, after the fresh Reinforcements it received from *England*; so that our all-projecting Queen was obliged to content herself, at last, with a Cessation of Arms, by the Assistance of the Emperor, who took great Pains to bring it about.

The Sums mentioned to have been remitted to the Imperial Court from *Spain*, were chiefly designed to put his Imperial Majesty in a Condition of invading *England*; which might be effected with less Expence and Difficulty than any other Diversion that could be expected or required of the Court of *Vienna*,
according

according to the Plan of a certain *British* Nobleman, who had held some Conferences with the Emperor's Ministers, on that Head, soon after that a Harmony had been restored between the Courts of *Vienna* and *Madrid*. By this Plan, the Emperor was to have near thirty thousand Men constantly in *Flanders*, and ready to be drawn to the Sea-Coast on the least Notice, or Order. *Ostend* and *Newport* were to be filled with all the Fishing Vessels, and other Craft, that could be got; the Troops destined for a Descent in *England*, being ready at hand, were to be sent in these Vessels, with a fair Wind, from *Ostend* and *Newport*, which being always contrary on the *British* Coast, would keep their Men of War in Port. That the *Imperialists* might then easily land on the Coast of *Kent*, and from thence march to *Rocheſter*, seize on the Bridge there, and secure a Communication with *Suffex* and *Surry*. That they might also seize upon such Ships in the *Medway* and *Thames* as they should have Occasion for, to bring more Troops from *Flanders*, or burn, and destroy the Ships in other Ports. *London*, consequently, must become an easy Prey to these hostile Troops, and a Revolution be unavoidably effected, without much Expence or Trouble.

Thus *England*, according to this Nobleman's crazy Plan, was to be conquered, and

no Prince had it so much in his Power to execute, as the Emperor. The Nobleman was to have a large Command in the Expedition, and no Man alive knew better how to head and harangue a Mob, than he did. He was generous to a Fault, and squandered away his Money and Estate in a most extravagant Manner, before he had left his native Country. These Qualities, though greatly admired among the low Rank of People in *England*, are looked upon, in Foreign Countries, as the Effects of Madness, and all the Honour gained by them, at last, when Poverty appears, is only to be pitied by some and scoffed by others. So much for a little Digression. As to this famous, though dangerous Plan, it never took place; neither did the Emperor or his Ministers seem fond of it: Which, however, they took care to conceal from the Nobleman in Question, lest he should charge them with Insincerity to the *Spanish* Court, and such a Charge should put a Stop to the Subsidies expected from that new Ally.

This Nobleman, being at last tired of waiting at the Court of *Vienna*, which seemed in no manner of Hurry to advance his Master's Interest, set out for *Rome*; and after a short Stay there, he went to *Spain*, where an honourable Command in the Army was immediately conferred upon him, though not equal
to

o his great Genius and Merit, had he not abused both. He served as *Aid de Camp* to the Count *de las Torres*, during the Siege of *Gibraltar*, under whom he made himself Master of the Art of War. He was once wounded by the bursting of a Shell, near him, which came from the Garrison. As soon as the Cessation was agreed upon, he retired from the Camp, to *Port St. Mary's*, from whence, some Time after, he went to *Catalonia*, and there died. Many are of Opinion, that he brcke his Heart, for he was often heard repeating the following Words out of the first Book of VIRGIL's *Æneid*. *O! terque quaterque beati*, &c.

The *French* Court, notwithstanding the Engagements they had lately entered into with that of *Great Britain*, openly favoured *Spain* during the Siege of *Gibraltar*. The Marquis *d'O*, who commanded the *Mediterranean* Fleet, was sent with a Squadron of twelve Men of War of the Line from *Toulon* to *Cadiz*, with a Design, as it was thought, to bring home the *Spanish* Treasure from the *West Indies*, and remained in that Port till the Cessation was agreed upon. The Queen of *Spain* was, much about the same time, delivered of a Son. The King of *France* was invited to stand Godfather to it; and the Infant was called *Lewis*, after his Name.

The Imperial Minister at the Court of *Spain* was now looked upon with great Coldness, as if the Treaty of *Vienna* had never subsisted. Thus the Queen of *Spain* changed Hands once more, and was as complaisant and obsequious to *Lewis XV.* as she had been to the late Duke of *Orleans*, when his Daughters came to the Catholic Court.

The King of *France*, having taken the Daughter of King *Stanislaus* to be his Queen, the *Infanta* of *Spain* could entertain no Hopes of ever returning to *France* again. The Queen her Mother, who was impatient to get a good Match for her, which would, one Day or other, raise her to the Dignity of sitting on a Throne, was very solicitous to procure her such a Match. *France*, as yet, had no Male Issue; the most Christian Queen having been delivered of Twin-Daughters, at her first Lying-in, and of another Daughter, at her second Lying-in, the whole Court, as well as the Nation, grew very uneasy, and greatly apprehended that the Queen of *France* would never have a Son. This made them think of getting the King divorced; for which purpose the Marquis de *essé* was appointed to go to *Rome*, to negociate a Bull from the Pope, whereby the *French* King should be authorized to repudiate his Queen, and to marry another Princess, in hopes of having Male
- Issue

Issue by her, which would prevent the Crown of *France* from falling into a Collateral Branch of the House of *Bourbon*: But having, for certain Reasons, suspended this Resolution for some time, the Queen proved once more with Child; of which, being safely delivered, it proved to be of the Male Kind, which occasioned the Project of the Divorce to be laid aside. But if it had not, as the *Infanta* had been still too young, the *French* Ministry would never chuse her as a Consort for their Monarch.

The Queen of *Spain* was very sensible of all this, and as she could not get a Match for her Daughter in any other Court, agreeable to her Ambition, she bethought herself of *Portugal*, which was nearer home. To carry on this Scheme with the Approbation of the *Spaniards*, and likewise of the *Portuguese*, she brought the *Infant* Don *Ferdinando*, Prince of *Asturias*, into play. This Prince had scarcely been thought of, either had any thing been proposed for him, or any mention made of him, from the Time he became presumptive Heir to the Crown, but was left, as it were, in Oblivion, till this new Project was set on foot. Don *Ferdinando*, who was always remarkable for his great Penetration and Gravity, which endeared him to the *Spanish* Nation, could not help being

mortified at the Proceedings of the Queen his Step-Mother, and the Partiality she had shewn to her own Children; yet he learned to dissemble his Resentment, with a Prudence and Magnanimity suitable to his high Rank. However, those who had an Opportunity of examining narrowly into his Countenance, plainly saw the Disquietudes of his Heart.

Whether this proceeded from the little Regard shewn to him all along by the Queen, or from some other private Causes, which he did not care to make public, no body could know from him: For he was so great a Master of his own Thoughts, that he never suffered any, even of his Favourites, to pry into his Secrets.

The Design of the Queen was to marry her Daughter to the Prince of *Brasil*, who was Heir to the Crown of *Portugal*. But foreseeing that it was natural for the Court of *Lisbon* to procure an advantageous Match for the *Infanta* of *Portugal*, she anticipated their Desire, by proposing the Prince of *Asturias* to her. The *Spanish* Minister, who then resided at the *Portugese* Court, was the Marquis of ———, an *Italian*, and consequently one of the Queen's Creatures. He had Instructions sent to him, after the Matter had been, for Form's Sake, examined in the Councils
of

of *Madrid*, to make the first Overtures of this cross Marriage, which he did, and were well received by the whole Court of *Portugal*. Orders were sent at the same time, by his *Portuguese* Majesty, to his Minister at *Madrid*, to intimate the same to the Queen of *Spain*; that the King his Master would improve that, and all Opportunities, to settle a firm and lasting Union and Harmony between the two Nations, which nothing could more effectually accomplish, than the Matches proposed.

This Declaration highly pleased the Catholic Queen; for besides the advantageous Marriage of her Daughter, of which she made no longer any Doubt, she likewise expected, in case of a War with the Emperor, which happened afterwards, that she should be so far able to influence the Court of *Lisbon*, as to send his Imperial Majesty no Supplies of Money; a Thing which he commonly stood in need of. Yet in this Particular she found herself mistaken; for the generous King of *Portugal*, whose Queen was Sister to the late Emperor *Charles VI.* and Aunt to the present Queen of *Hungary*, advanced considerable Sums to his Brother-in Law, as he did likewise to his Daughter in the present War, notwithstanding all the Endeavours of the Queen of *Spain* to prevent him.

However, to return to our present Purpose, the Marquis *de los Balbazes* was appointed Ambassador Extraordinary by the Catholic King, and sent to *Lisbon* to demand the *Infanta* of *Portugal* in Marriage for the Prince of *Asturias*; and a *Portuguese* Nobleman was sent to the Court of *Madrid*, with the like Character, to demand the *Infanta* of *Spain* for the Prince of *Brasil*. As both Parties were very willing to agree to those Demands, the Treaties relating thereto were soon concluded, and the Marriages celebrated, in which the two Ambassadors stood as Proxies for their Principals. The Ceremonies were performed on one and the same Day at both Courts, in the Beginning of *January* 1727-8, with extraordinary Magnificence; and the public Rejoicings continued for several Nights after. But the Exchange of Princesses was deferred for some Months; and was made at last between *Elvas* and *Badajos*, the two Frontier Garrisons of *Portugal* and *Spain*, on the Side of *Estremadura*.

The two Courts attended the Royal Bridegrooms and Brides on this Occasion, and the grand Appearance they made may be more easily imagined than expressed. The *Portuguese* Nobility and *Fidalgos* were all over bedawbed with rich Gold Laces, and wore an
infinite

infinite Number of precious Stones, of immense Value, and studied in every respect to out-do the *Spaniards*. The Court of *Madrid*, some time before, had prohibited the wearing of any wrought Gold or Silver; so that the *Grandeess*, and the *Spanish Ladies*, together with the Gentlemen who waited on their Majesties and the Princes, were all dressed in black Velvets and Silks, bespangled with Diamonds and Pearls, which made so brilliant a Figure, and so adapted to the *Spanish Gravity*, that it seemed to reproach the Gaiety of the *Portuguese Court*. Three Days were spent in Ceremonies, Visits, and Feasting, between the two Courts, and the Exchange of the Princesses being made, their *Catholic* and *Portuguese Majesties* took their Leaves of each other, as did all the Courtiers; and thus ended this Interview, than which nothing ever appeared more splendid in *Europe*, since that which *Henry VIII. of Great Britain* had with *Francis I. of France*.

We cannot add whether these Marriages were consummated, while the Courts were upon the Frontiers of the two Kingdoms or not, but it seems as if Don *Ferdinando*, Prince of *Asturias*, the present King of *Spain*, had never consummated his Marriage; for it is most certain, that he never had any Children, and that

that the Court of *Spain* never took the least Pains to make the World believe, that his Consort had so much as miscarried. No, no, the Queen wanted no such Miscarriages, nor Pregnancies. If she got him a Wife, it was only to blind Mankind ; his Job, as to a procreative Power, was done. *Donia Laura*, who was as cunning as any old Witch in *Europe*, had studied the Effects of certain Herbs, which she found *a propos* for a *Grand Design* which her *Mistress* had in view. The Succession to *Parma* and *Placentia*, and to the other States of *Italy*, which this ambitious Lady claimed for *Don Carlos*, her eldest Son, were always disputed by the House of *Austria*. But in case they had not, and that *Don Carlos* should be put into the peaceable Possession of those States, at the Death of the late Dukes of *Tuscany* and *Parma*, this would not have filled the Scope of her boundless Ambition : For having more Sons, one of whom she settled for a Time in the Church, being thereto moved out of political Motives ; and may with greater Ease take him out of that Settlement, if any Thing more agreeable to her *Genius* should offer.

She therefore often lamented that King *Philip* had ever been married to any other but herself ; and the secret Grief which lay at her Heart, at seeing so many Obstacles between her Issue
and

and the *Spanish* Monarchy, overwhelmed her. In these *Fits* she was frequently comforted by her trusty *Laura*, who knew the Cause of all her Disorders. But as two of those Obstacles had been already removed, that is, Don *Vendome* and the King Don *Lewis* I. *Laura* assured her, "That it would
 " not be safe to play the old Trick over
 " again, which had carried these Princes out
 " of the World : For that she feared, notwithstanding, the whole Affair, on both
 " Occasions, had been carried on with great
 " Secrecy, and no Discovery ever made; yet
 " many suspected and said, in private Discourses, that those two Princes had not fair
 " Play for their Lives. However, to prevent any Jealousies of the like Nature, for
 " the future, she assured her Majesty, that
 " without attacking Don *Ferdinando's* Life,
 " she had lately discovered a *Specific*, which
 " would prevent his having any Children;
 " and that she could have it easily administered to him by Means of her own Daughter, who had, as she believed, some Share
 " of Credit with the Prince, which would answer her Majesty's Desire in every Respect,
 " though not immediately."

The Queen was extremely well pleased with this new Method, which her favourite Nurse had discovered, of facilitating the Succession

cession to her Son, without taking away any more Lives, and resolved, that whatever Dominions should be allotted to Don *Carlos* in *Italy*, in the Interim, might be either annexed to the Crown of *Spain*, when her Son should ascend that Throne, or be given to her second Son Don *Philip*, whom she designed for King of *Lombardy*. She ordered *Laura* to lose no Time in preparing the *Potion* for the Prince, and to have it presented to him, under the specious Pretence of something more agreeable, by her beautiful Daughter; which was punctually executed, Don *Ferdinando's* watchful Genius having on this important Occasion left him to himself. All this was practised some Years before his Marriage with the *Infanta* of *Portugal*, so that it is not to be admired if he never had any Children.

Soon after the Treaty of *Seville*, Don *Carlos* was sent to *Italy*, chiefly by the Means and Interest of *Great Britain*; which procured him likewise the Admittance of Six Thousand *Spanish* Troops to guard him. The Depredations, notwithstanding, committed on the *British* Trading Ships in the *West-Indies*, did not cease. On the contrary, it was carried on with greater Effrontery than ever. The Queen of *Spain* was so provoked at the Loss of the *Spanish* Fleet, which Sir
George

George Byng destroyed in the *Pharo* of *Messino* in 1718, to which she imputed the Loss of the Island of *Sicily*, the Conquest of which she was almost sure of, that she could never forgive the *English* that Check, which her Ambition so much deserved, and so seasonably received. And though the *British* Court favoured her future Designs in *Italy*, by concurring to the Settlement of her eldest Son in that Country, with the additional Title of *Grand Prince of Tuscany*, yet all this could not make her vindictive Spirit, either easy to herself, or acknowledging to her Benefactors, for the Favours received from them.

The War that broke out between the Emperor and *France*, on account of King *Stanislaus's* Election to the Crown of *Poland*, which was thwarted in a little Time after, by the Election of the Duke of *Saxony* to the same Crown, furnished the Queen of *Spain* with a fresh Opportunity of making War anew against the Emperor in *Italy*. The Six Thousand *Spaniards* that were admitted into that Country, as a Guard to the Grand Prince, soon swelled to double the Number, and was equal, if not superior, to all the *German* Forces then in *Lombardy*. For the Emperor finding himself attacked by *France*, on the Side of *Fort Kelk* and *Philipsburg*, he was
con-

constrained to draw the best Part of his Forces out of *Italy*, to reinforce his Army in the Empire, before he could apprehend any Danger from *Spain*, or the King of *Sardinia*.

The Twelve Thousand *Spaniards* who were in *Tuscany*, and the adjacent Places, were soon joined by powerful Reinforcements from *Barcelona* and *Alicant*; so that his Catholic Majesty, or rather his Queen, in a very short Space of Time, had a formidable Army in *Italy*, under the Command of the Count of *Montemar*. This General, finding nothing to oppose him, marched to *Naples*, leaving the Conquest of the *Milanese* to the King of *Sardinia*, who had joined his Forces to the *French* Army, which was commanded by the Generals *Broglio* and *Coigni*.

Monfieur *Montemar* continued his March into the Kingdom of *Naples*, without any Molestation till he came to an Eminence near *Bitonto*. Here the Imperial Army waited for him, and had all the Advantage of that high Ground, which they had fortified. The Battle began with great Fury, and lasted some Hours before the Imperialists would give way. They were at last compelled to retreat in Confusion, and take their Flight towards *Bitonto*, a Place of no Strength, and only furrounded
with

with an old Wall; the *Spaniards* took most of them Prisoners, particularly the Officers. The Victory was complete, and the City of *Naples*, with its Castles, fell afterwards into their Hands; but not before they had laid a formal Siege to each Castle, which are three in Number. *Gaeta* was the next Conquest, and this completed that of the Kingdom of *Naples*.

In the mean time, the *French* and *Piedmontese* had taken the strong Citadel of *Milan*, fought two Battles with the *Germans*, in which the latter were as often routed; and at last driven quite out of *Italy*. They thought, that encamping in the *Venetian* Territories would save them from being pursued; that being a neutral Country: However, when the Count of *Montemar* came from *Naples*, with the *Spanish* Army, in order to have the chiefest Share in the Reduction of *Mantua*, according to his Mistress's Directions, he followed the *Germans* into that Republic, on whose Approach they were obliged to retreat to the *Tyrolese*.

Mantua may well be called the Citadel of *Italy* for Strength, both by Nature and Art. It is situated in the Middle of a deep Morass, and is accessible only on one Side, and that by a Causeway which leads through the
Morass

Morass to the Gate. Great Preparations were made for the Siege of this Place, which, according to the Opinion of the most Judicious, would last near six Months, and particularly by the *Spanish* General, who proposed no less than to have the Honour of taking it, without the Assistance of any other Troops, but those under his own Command. All Manner of Materials were getting ready to fill up the Morass, that Batteries might be raised near enough to fire at the City, and to throw Bombs into it. *Mantua* had a numerous Garrison, and was well provided with all Sorts of warlike Stores and Provisions, and a Governor who was resolved to hold out to the last Extremity.

The Queen of *Spain*, however, not being able to forget her old Game, began now to play off one of her Master-Pieces of Politics. She concluded herself already no less than Mistress of all *Italy*, and reckoned that *Mantua*, after the Retreat of the *German* Army, was as good as in her own Hands. Flushed with this Success, she dispatched an *Italian Abbé* privately to the Court of *Vienna*, with Credentials and full Powers to treat of, and settle a Peace with that Court, and a Marriage Treaty between the eldest of the young Arch-Duchesses, which is the Reigning Queen

Queen of *Hungary*, and Don *Carlos*, *Infant of Spain*. This *Abbé* made all the Expedition he could on, his Journey, and having arrived at the Imperial Court, he intimated his coming with Credentials and a secret Commission, to one of the Emperor's Principal Secretaries of State, with whom he had a short Conference the same Day, in which he laid before him the Motives that induced the Catholic Court, that is, the Queen his Mistress, to send him on an Embassy to their Imperial Majesties, of all which the Court of *France* was to be kept in the dark.

The Secretary, when the Conference was over, waited on the Emperor, and told him of this Minister's Arrival, and of the Business with which he was charged. The Emperor, who had always designed his eldest Daughter for the Duke of *Lorraine*, was not a little surprized that the Queen of *Spain* should send to make such an Overture to him; but as the Matter was not laid before the Court in Form, by the *Spanish* Minister, who expected to be admitted to an Audience of his Imperial Majesty, wherein he should execute that Part of his Commission, the Emperor, in order to play a counter Part, which would not please the Queen of *Spain*,

G

feigned

feigned that he was indisposed for two or three Days.

In this Interval, it was consulted how to out-wit the *Catholic Queen*, and recover, without any Blood-shed, what had been lost in *Italy*. The *Abbé* was admitted, in a few Days, to an Audience of *Charles VI.* in which, as the Negotiation was to be carried on with great Secresy, little or no Ceremony was used, to prevent any Discovery, as was pretended. The *Abbé* presented his Letters of Credence, and acquainted his Imperial Majesty with the Commission the Queen of *Spain* had charged him to execute, as already mentioned, and desired a speedy Answer. To which he was told, "That the Nature
 " of his Business required some Time to con-
 " sider of it. That though the *Germans* had
 " abandoned *Italy*, yet Fortune, it was to be
 " hoped, would be more favourable to them
 " on the *Rhine*, since the *French* had declined
 " coming to a general Engagement with them
 " there, and were retiring towards the Elec-
 " torate of *Triers* with Precipitation, which
 " however, they could not be able to do, be-
 " fore they were overtaken by the Imperial
 " Forces; and that it was not doubted but the
 " *French* would be very severely treated, and
 " brought to equitable Terms, which would
 " put

“ put the House of *Austria* in a Condition of
 “ coming to a final Resolution, with respect
 “ to the Marriage proposed.”

With this evasive Answer the *Abbé* returned to his Lodgings, but not well pleased with it, nor with the Audience. The Ministers of the Court of *Vienna*, who were made privy to the Affair, received Orders to communicate the whole to the Duke of *Lorrain*; and to engage him to send an Account thereof to his Minister at *Paris*, with Instructions to lay this new Intrigue of the Queen of *Spain's*, before his most Christian Majesty, and his Ministry; that they might see how far they might depend upon their faithful Ally, the Catholic Queen. When his Royal Highness was informed of the Transaction, he was filled with Indignation against the Author of a Scheme, which aimed at nothing less than the depriving himself of all future Happiness in this World; and, on the other hand, appeared highly pleased with the Sincerity and Integrity of the Imperial Court towards him, to whom he immediately made an Offer of sacrificing every Thing he had in his Possession, to procure an honourable Peace between the Imperial Court and *France*.

The Duke dispatched a Courier, at the same time, to *Paris*, with an Account of the Me-

thod made use of by the Queen of *Spain*, to negotiate a Marriage with the Eldest of *Charles* the VIth's Daughters, to his own Prejudice, as well as that of *France*, without whose Privity, or Consent, she imagined to bring this Affair to bear, contrary to the public Faith of Treaties, particularly that concluded between their most Christian and Catholic Majesties, for carrying on the War in which they were then engaged. The News of this Project was received with as much, or rather more Surprize at the Court of *Versailles*, than at *Vienna*. But as there was no room left for suspecting the Truth of it, on the contrary, it shewed a lively Picture of the Queen of *Spain*'s Genius, the Court of *France* came to a Resolution to improve this Advance, made by the Duke of *Lorraine*, into an advantageous Peace for themselves.

Agreeable thereto, a Plan of Accommodation was drawn up and sent to *Vienna*, the principal Article of which was, to settle the Duke of *Lorraine*, and his Heirs for ever, in the peaceable Possession of the Grand Dutchy of *Tuscany*, and its Dependancies, provided he would yield up *Lorraine* and *Bar* to the Crown of *France*; that all the Conquests made in *Italy*, except *Naples* and *Sicily*, should

should be restored to the House of *Austria*, together with *Parma* and *Placentia*; and that the extensive Designs of the Queen of *Spain*, on that Country, should be confined to *Sicily* and *Naples*. This Plan was approved of without any Difficulty or Objection, in which it was likewise stipulated, that the King of *Sardinia* should be discharged from the *Ban* of the Empire, under which he had been put, for having so tenaciously adhered to the Interest of *France* and *Spain*, in that War, with some other trifling Acknowledgements, scarce worth mentioning. Don *Carlos* was, by the same Treaty, settled in the Kingdoms of *Naples* and *Sicily*.

This Treaty was published without any further Ceremony, both at *Vienna* and *Versailles*, before the Catholic Court knew that it had been set on foot; and daily expected to hear of their own Minister's Success, when the News of a Peace deprived them of all Hopes. The *Italian Abbé*, who all this while waited for a second Audience from the Emperor, finding his Mistress and himself duped, set out for *Madrid*, without taking his Leave of their Imperial Majesties, or waiting to be recalled. All *Italy* was evacuated, except what had been ceded to Don *Carlos*; and the ambitious Queen was compelled to content herself with what had been thus carried

on, much against her Expectations and Inclinations, because she could not prevail in the Cabinet of the Emperor, or in the Field.

These are Events brought about by Providence, which delights in Peace, and to check the Ambitious. As *Charles VI.* had never a Son, the Queen of *Spain* foresaw that the Imperial Crown must, on his Demise, come to another Family; and by marrying her Son, *Don Carlos*, to the eldest of his Daughters, though contrary to the Constitution of the Empire, and the *Golden Bull*, (whereby it is ordained, that none but a Prince, born and educated in *Germany*, shall be raised to the Dignity of Emperor,) yet she doubted not, but by the Assistance of *Spanish Gold*, she might remove all those Difficulties, and get her Son chosen Emperor, if she could procure such a Match for him, which, in time, would bring the Imperial Crown and that of *Spain* once more on one Head, as they had been in the Days of the Emperor *Charles V.* But the Circumstances of the *Austrian Affairs*, which obliged that House to yield up *Lorrain* to *France*, defeated, without any Struggle, the Project formed by her Catholic Majesty, on the Empire: And the King of *Sardinia*, who was to have had a large Share allotted him, out of the Conquest of *Italy*,
was

was obliged to content himself with the Loss of Part of his Army, which died both in Battles and Sieges, during the Course of the War, and with the Expence he was at, in carrying of it on, without any Subsidy; which has made him, ever since, cautious of entering into any Engagements with the Crowns of *France* or *Spain*.

Peace being thus surprizingly restored once more to *Europe*, in the Year 1735, the *Spanish* Depredations in the *West-Indies*, on the Merchants of *Great Britain*, were carried on with more Boldness than ever. The Number of the *Guarda Costas* was greatly increased, and seemed to bid Defiance to all the Endeavours of the *British* Merchants, to put a Stop to their illegal Procedures. The Court of *Spain* could never forgive the Loss of their Fleet, which had been destroyed by Sir *George Byng* in the *Pharo* of *Messina*: And the Queen used all the Artifices she could, to distress the Trade of these Kingdoms, ever since that Time, which proved a fatal Period to some of our Merchants, as appeared by the many Complaints exhibited against the *Spaniards*, on that Account. Application was made several Times to Parliament by the Sufferers; Commissaries were appointed to go to *Seville*, to adjust their Claims; and a *Convention* was at last agreed upon, wherein

a certain Sum was promised by *Spain*, to make good the Loss of the Complainants.

The Catholic Court, at the same time, made a Demand of some Thousands of Pounds on the *South Sea Company*, on account of the *Affiento Contract*, which was not allowed of by the latter. The *Spanish* Ministry, though they had fixed on a Day for the Payment of the Sum stipulated for the *English* Merchants, who had suffered by the Depredations, yet they had tacked a Protest to the *Convention*, against paying that Sum, unless the *South Sea Company* would first comply with their Demands on them. But this being refused, the *Spaniards* would not pay what they had agreed upon, when the appointed Day came.

The *British* Nation was very much provoked at this Treatment, insomuch, that in the Summer 1739, his Majesty granted Letters of *Marque* and *Reprisal* to his Subjects, against those of *Spain*; and in *October* following War was proclaimed against the *Spaniards*, which was not confined to *Europe*, but was carried to the *West-Indies*; and even round the World, to the Advantage of the *British* Arms.

Towards the Close of the Year 1740, *Charles* the VIth, Emperor of *Germany*, after a short

a short Illness, died at *Vienna*. His Death raised new Broils, and at last kindled a general War in *Europe*. The Elector of *Bavaria*, on this Occasion, declared himself a Candidate for the Imperial Crown. The Eldest of the late Emperor's Daughters, who had succeeded to her Father's hereditary Dominions, by the Title of Queen of *Hungaria*, &c. was at that Time not only married to the Duke of *Lorrain*, Grand Duke of *Tuscany*, but likewise within a few Months of her Time, and eagerly desired to have her Husband chosen Head of the Empire.

The late Emperor, not thinking that Death was so near him, neglected to appoint his Son-in-Law, King of the *Romans*, in hopes that his Daughter would be brought to Bed of a Son, on which he intended to confer that Title; in-virtue of which the young Prince ought to be acknowledged as Emperor by the Princes Electors, on his Grandfather's Demise. But being carried off, as already observed, not only the Electors, but any other *German* Prince, might offer himself a Candidate to the Imperial Diadem, when there was no King of the *Romans* elected, or appointed.

As the Elector of *Bavaria* was always one of the Creatures of *France*, it was her Interest to support him, with all her Power and Riches, in his Views. Every Body knows the Part *Prussia* acted on this Occasion ;

sion; therefore we shall not recite it here: The *French* invaded *Germany*, and had their Favourite chosen Emperor, partly by Force, and partly by Intrigue. The new Emperor, however, had not a Day's Peace; he was driven twice out of his Capital, and his whole Electorate laid waste: And at last, being involved in a bloody and destructive War, it is thought that he died of Grief.

France had acted all this while as an Ally; but finding that the young Elector would not follow his Father's Maxims in Politics, she pulled off the Mask she had all along affected to wear, and declared War against the King of *England*, who had warmly and heartily espoused the *Austrian* Interest, and furnished large Sums of Money, as well as a numerous Army to support the Queen of *Hungaria*; but not without the repeated Approbation of the *British* Parliament, and the Nation in general, which concurred with Alacrity in his Majesty's Measures.

It was not *France* and *Prussia* only that distressed the *Hungarian* Queen, on her Father's Demise: For the Queen of *Spain* seeing her attacked in the Empire by such powerful Princes, she laid hold of the Opportunity that offered, and invaded *Italy* for the
third

third Time, since she became Queen of *Spain*. Don *Carlos* joined his Forces to those of the Queen his Mother : The Duke of *Montemar*, who had commanded the *Spanish* Forces in that Country, in 1734 and 1735, with Success, was once more honoured with the like Commission, and nothing less than the Conquest of *Italy* was expected from so great a General. The *Austrian* Affairs, at this Time, bore a very bad Aspect, both in *Germany* and in *Italy* : The Queen of *Hungaria* could not raise Forces sufficient to make head against her Enemies, for want of Money. In this desponding Condition she applied to *Great Britain*, the antient Ally of her Family. The *British* Court answered her Expectations in every Respect ; the Squadron of Men of War sent to the *Mediterranean*, defeated the Queen of *Spain's* Designs on *Italy* ; and *Montemar's* Army dwindled to nothing. The Kingdom of *Naples* narrowly escaped from falling again into the Hands of the House of *Austria*. But as *Elizabeth Farnesio's* Reign is now at an End, and both the *French* and *Spaniards* have been driven out *Italy*, it is not to be questioned, (as the new Catholic King has all along declared,) that he would make the old *Spanish* Principles his Rule of Government ; and that he would listen to no other Counsellors, but such as were of that Nation, if any Stress may be laid on the Dispositions already shewn by the
the

the *Spaniards*, and the Resentment they discovered, when Don *Carlos* was settled in *Naples* and *Sicily*, which they alledged had formerly belonged to the Catholic Monarchy; and instead of establishing Don *Carlos* in the Possession of those Kingdoms, at the Expence of *Spanish* Valour and Treasure, that they ought to revert to the Crown, whose Conquests they were.

As the Queen of *Spain*, together with her *Italian* Faction, are, at present, sunk to the *Nadir* of their Power and Ambition, and without any Hopes of ever re-ascending in this Reign, or getting into any Share of Credit with Don *Ferdinando*; what could be more to the Credit of the *Spanish* Nation, or that could contribute more to the aggrandizing of that Kingdom so much, as to pursue those Principles, to which they appeared so greatly inclined of late Years; that is, of calling Don *Carlos* home, and of re-uniting *Naples* and *Sicily* to the *Spanish* Monarchy, which would restore Peace, not only to *Italy* and *Spain*, but consequently to all *Europe*; and remove that Bone of Contention, which otherwise must kindle perpetual Ruptures and Wars, in which the Powers of *Christendom* must be involved. Since it is believed, on all hands, that the new King of *Spain* can never have any Issue, there is nothing more reason-

reasonable, than that Don *Carlos* should wait with Patience, till the Crown of *Spain* should devolve upon him, by a legal Right of Succession, and not act the Incendiary, by keeping a strong Army, ready to attack any Prince in *Italy*, at his Mother's Beck.

If, at this Juncture, *Spain* should not be actuated with the Principles discovered by Don *Ferdinando's* Party, in his Father's Reign, sure the Powers of *Europe* may and ought to oblige her to it, before the Conclusion of a Peace with the Catholic King. During the late unnatural Rebellion, raised in *England*, by the wicked Artifices of *France*, the Queen of *Spain* contributed to support the Rebels, with Money and Arms; and would as willingly overturn this Government as the *French*, and as heartily concur to it, had she not too much Work cut out for her in *Italy*. But as all her Efforts have proved ineffectual, both here and there, it is presumed that the *British* Nation ought readily to come into the Scheme of bringing Don *Carlos* home, in which they would undoubtedly oblige the *Spanish* Monarch and his Subjects, and effectually return the Compliment to the Queen Dowager.

The Disputes subsisting between this and the *Spanish* Nation relates to Property, in which both complain of being aggrieved.
The

the *Spaniards* pretend, that the *British* Merchants carry on a Clandestine Trade in the *West Indies*, contrary to the public Faith of Treaties, which give them a Right to search all *English* Ships, in those Parts. The Merchants loudly cry against such Searches, and deny the Charge. But as this is a knotty Affair, in which, in order to bring about an Accommodation between the two Nations, we believe that some Concessions must be made by both Parties, and with that the sending of *Don Carlos* back again, may be stipulated on the Part of *Britain*.

As for the Queen of *Spain*, whose Conduct has induced us to write these her Memoirs, we cannot be convinced that she designs to spend the Remainder of her Days in Acts of Piety and Devotion, to recommend her to eternal Felicity; therefore, common Prudence requires, that the *British* Court should insist on her being shut up in a Convent for Life, as the Laws of *Spain* direct for Royal Widows to do; or that she may be allowed to retire into the Mountains of *Siberia*, to keep Company with those great and ambitious Persons sent thither by the Court of *Russia*, for attempting to subvert the Right of Succession in that Empire.

The extraordinary Passion for governing,
which

which the Queen of *Spain* discovered, ever since she was married to *Philip* the Vth, may excite the Curiosity of our Readers to know how *she* should be so ambitious, who was born a Feudatory to the House of *Austria*, and to the *Holy See*? Several political Reasons might be assigned here, for the Queen's singular Conduct; but as these Reasons are already taken notice of in the Course of this History, we shall not repeat them, but proceed to shew that this *Genius* has been inherited by the Princess *Farnesio*, who is descended in a direct, though illegitimate, Line from the Emperor *Charles V.*

*Charles**, while Count of *Flanders*, made a Tour through the different Provinces of the *Low Countries*, and coming to *Oudenard*, he there staid a Day or two. In this Time a Grand Ball was given by the first Quality of the Place, to which the Prince was invited. *Charles* accepted of the Invitation, but saw nothing so agreeable at the Ball, as a young Lady, which engaged his whole Attention. The Count of *Flanders* could not help, at last, being lavish in his Praises of her, and that in the hearing of the Nobility who accompanied him.

One

* Vid. *Strada*, T. I. de *Bello Belgico*.

One of *Charles's* Attendants, and of that Sort of Courtiers, who have Access to Princes, only by criminal and infamous Services, finding by his Master's Discourse, that the young Lady had made a tender Impression on the Prince's Heart, by the Favour of the Night, carried her off without any Resistance, and conducted her to *Charles's* Bed-Chamber, where having spent the Night in Raptures with the Prince, she conceived, and in about nine Months after, was delivered of a Daughter.

This Young Lady's Name, was *Margaret Vangeste*, Daughter of *John Vangeste*, of *Oudenard*, and of *Mary Coquambe*, his Wife; who were very considerable among the Nobility of the *Low Countries*: But being dead of the Plague, the Count *de Hocstrate*, having had a particular Regard for the deceased Couple, received their Daughter into his own Family; and *Elizabeth Culembourgh*, his Wife, took as much Care of her Education, as if she had been her own Child: It was along with the Countess of *Hocstrate* that *Margaret* went to the Ball, where she learnt, how difficult a Task it was for her to unveil her Beauty, without exposing her Modesty; or to guard her Chastity against the Passion of a powerful and amorous Prince.

The

The Infant was christened by the Name of *Margaret* also, and committed to the Care of *Charles's* Aunt, who governed the *Low Countries* for him at that Time. Young *Margaret* was there taken care of till she was eight Years old; and then, by the Death of the Governess, was placed with *Mary*, *Charles's* Sister; who, being Queen Dowager of *Hungaria*, was called by her Brother to the Government of *Flanders*.

Margaret studied so well the Qualities of her Aunt, that as she proposed nothing more to herself, than to copy after her, she shewed that she not only had the Virtues which rendered that Princess admired, both in private and public Life, but also her Sentiments, Inclinations, and even her Customs and Gravity. At the Age of Eleven, she was married to *Alexander de Medicis*, in the City of *Naples*, where *Charles V.* spared nothing that might contribute to the public Rejoicings made on that Occasion. The Prince of *Tuscany* returned with his Consort, soon after this Ceremony was over, to *Florence*, where they were received with great Pomp and Magnificence, and the Rejoicing for the Marriage, renewed: In the Height of which, the Sun was all of a sudden eclipsed. This Incident was taken for a bad Omen by a great many, particularly by those who could

H

not

not look, but with Horror, on the State of the *Florentines*, and ardently desiring a Change of Government, compared the Defection of the Light to the Fortune of their new Prince, which, they hoped, was soon to be at an End.

They were not deceived in their Conjectures; for *Alexander* was grown so excessively amorous and ambitious, after his Alliance with the Emperor, that though he had escaped many an Ambush, he was assassinated, at last, in the Pursuit of his unlawful Pleasures, before the Expiration of the first Year of his Marriage.

Margaret was afterwards married to *Octavio Farnesio*, Prince of *Parma*, though he was but in the thirteenth Year of his Age. The present Queen Dowager of *Spain* descends, in a direct Line, from this *Octavio* and *Margaret*, who was Governess of *Flanders*, when the *Dutch* revolted against *Spain*. She did not approve of the second Match, and slighted a Husband who was not yet of Age. *Octavio* finding himself slighted by his Consort, though he could not tell why, went as a Volunteer with the Emperor, against *Algiers*: But this Expedition proving unsuccessful, he returned to *Italy* along with the Army, and remained with them for the Space of two Years, without ever going to see *Margaret*.

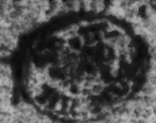
By

By this Time *Octavio* was become more amiable, and when he returned to *Parma*, it is difficult to say with how much Tenderness he was received and carested, by his Consort.

By a singular good Fortune, she was, soon after, delivered of Male Twins, and at the same Time she saw her Power and Wealth increase, by the Addition of the Principalities of *Parma* and *Placentia*, to which *Octavio* succeeded at his Father's Death, which then happened. Her Love afterwards for her Husband, was proportioned to the Satisfaction she received from those double Advantages that fell to her at once; but being ambitious of governing, she could not bear that the Authority should be divided between her and her Husband. And to put an End to the Disputes which frequently arose between her and the Duke, *Philip II.* of *Spain*, who was her Half-Brother, appointed her Governess of the *Low Countries*; where she and Cardinal *Granvelle*, her Prime Minister, irritated the Inhabitants of the *Netherlands* to such a Degree, that they, at last, flew to Arms, as the only Means to shake off the *Spanish Yoke*.

Whether *Margaret* of *Parma* was more hated by the Subjects of the *Low Countries*, or the Queen of *Spain*, her Descendant, by those

those the governed while Queen, we cannot pretend to say; though we believe her *Maxims* of *Spain*, would, in a little Time, be as destructive to the *Spanish* Monarchy, as those of the former were to the *Netherlands*; yet Providence seems to have interposed in Favour of *Spain*, on the Death of *Philip V.* by wresting the Reins of Government out of *Elizabeth Farnesio's* Hands, which could not otherwise be effected, whilst that King lived, and giving of them to *Don Ferdinando VI.* who seems greatly inclined to Peace, for the Good of his Subjects, and to be fond of the old *Spanish* Observation, which recommends Peace with *England*, preferable to all other Nations. *Con todo el Mundo Guerra, y Paz con Inglaterra.* The happy Consequences of which will tend to make both Nations flourish, after an expensive and ruinous War, to the *Spaniards*, to obtain the Ends of an ambitious Queen, who seems to have inherited not only all the Passions of *Margaret of Parma*, but also of the Emperor *Charles V.* particularly their Desire of Governing.



F I N I S.

